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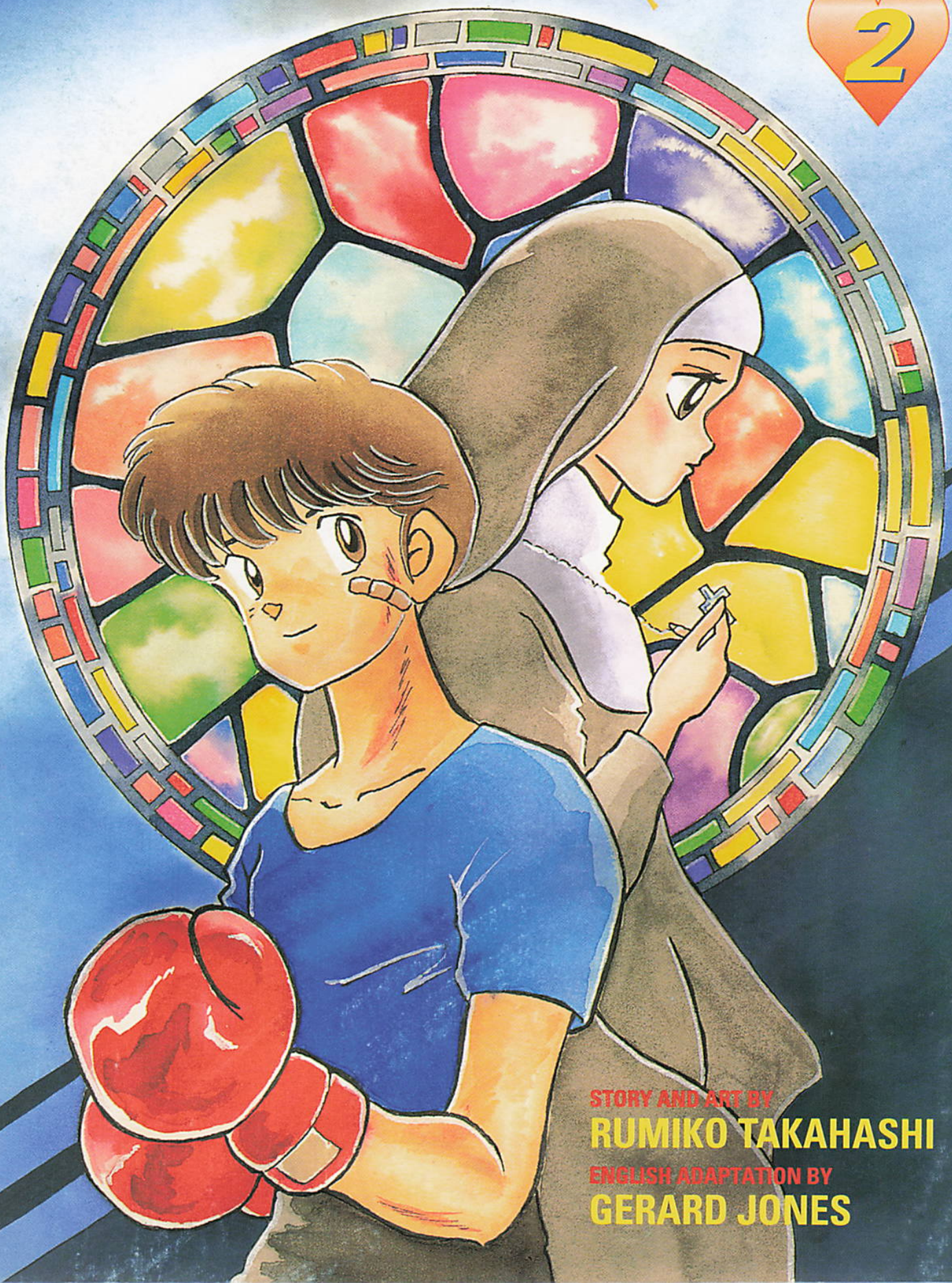
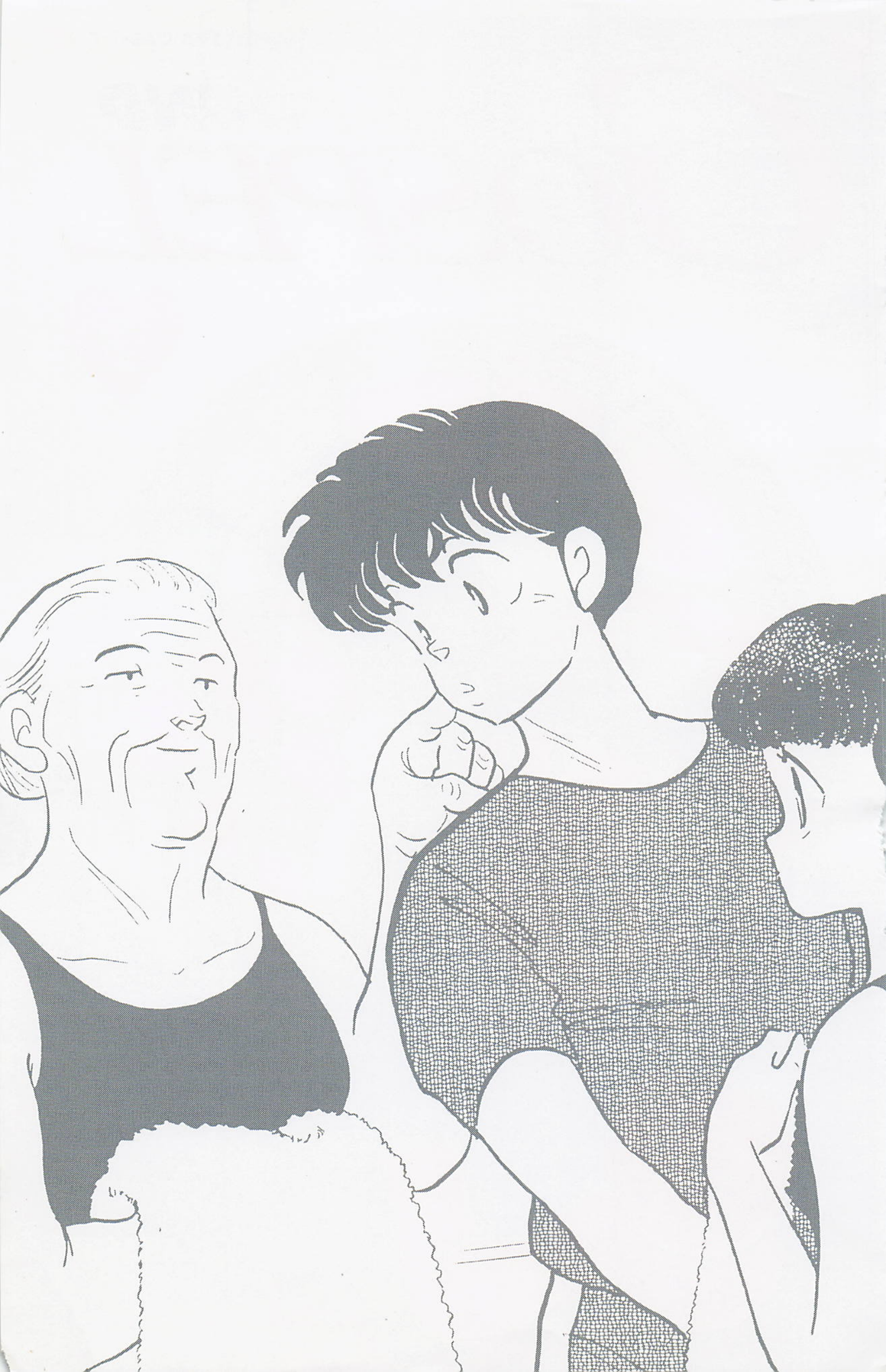
ONE-POUND GOSPEL

2



STORY AND ART BY
RUMIKO TAKAHASHI

ENGLISH ADAPTATION BY
GERARD JONES



Viz Select Comics

ONE-POUND GOSPEL

2

STORY & ART BY
RUMIKO TAKAHASHI

ONE-POUND GOSPEL
No. 2

Story & Art by Rumiko Takahashi

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ONE-POUND GOSPEL

RUMIKO TAKAHASHI'S HEAVEN-SENT MANGA KNOCKOUT, ONE-POUND GOSPEL, MOVES FROM THE PAGES OF ANIMERICA, ANIME & MANGA MONTHLY TO ITS OWN MONTHLY COMIC!

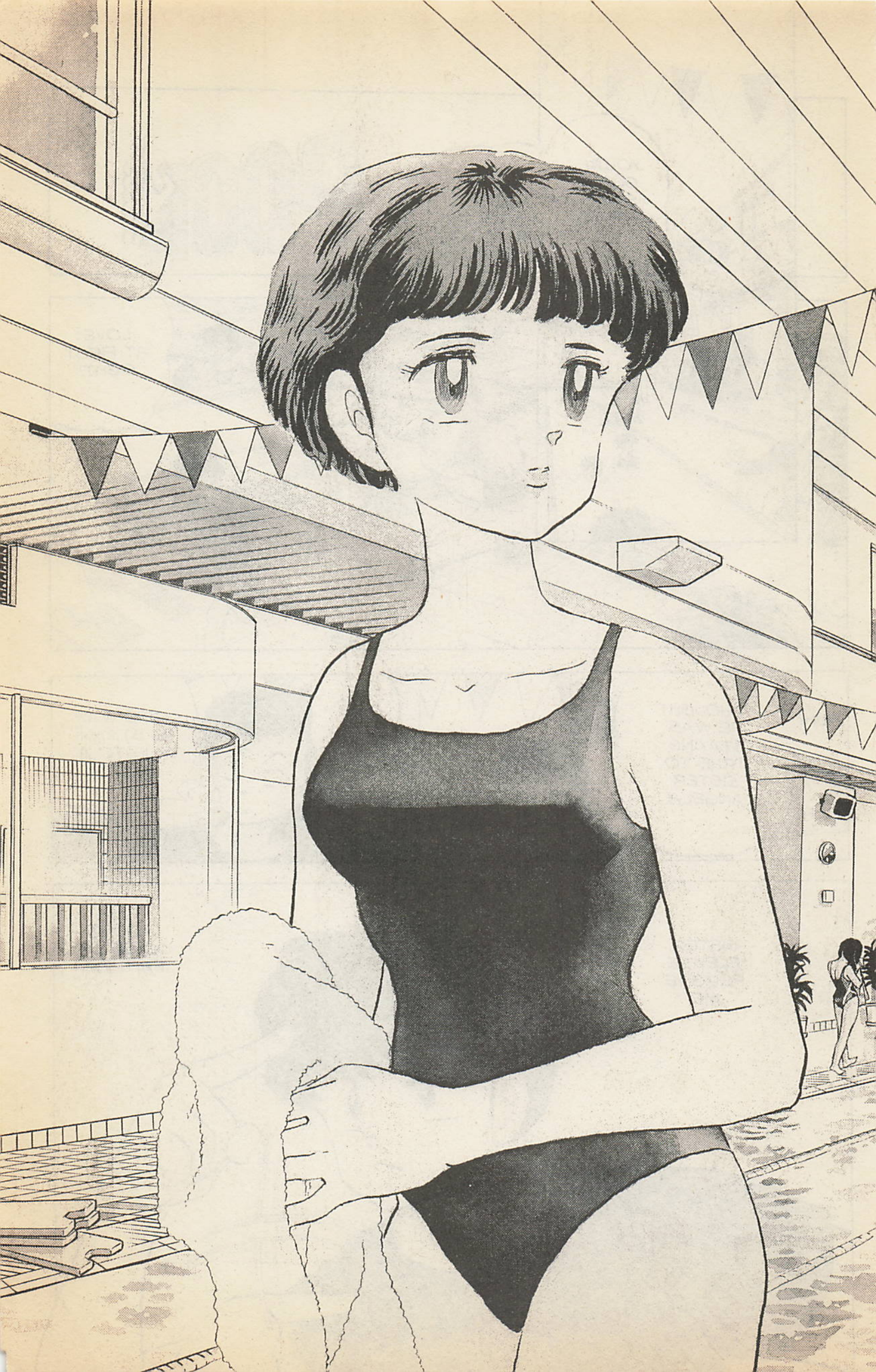
Kosaku Hatanaka is the first pro boxer ever produced by Mukaida's Gym, Kosaku is also the bane of his coach's existence. Although he's constantly waging war against his appetite, Kosaku never met a meal he didn't like! Naturally, this plays havoc with his weight class. Junior bantamweight, bantamweight, junior featherweight...every time he moves up a class, his coach's hopes plummet. Isn't gluttony a sin?

Sister Angela is a young novice nun who's dedicated, passionate, and convinced that we should give peace a chance. Although she refuses to acknowledge it, it's obvious that Kosaku comes to St. Mary's for more than confession. He comes to see the smile of the beautiful sister, of course! Can her faith redeem the gluttonous appetite of the tempted lamb astride the scale?

Name: **COACH MUKAIDA**
Identity: BOXING COACH
Notes: Will Coach's nerves survive Kosaku's next diet?

Name: **KURUSU**
Identity: BOXER
Notes: Kurusu is Kosaku's reluctant, timid next opponent. Will this trembling rabbit even show up for the match?

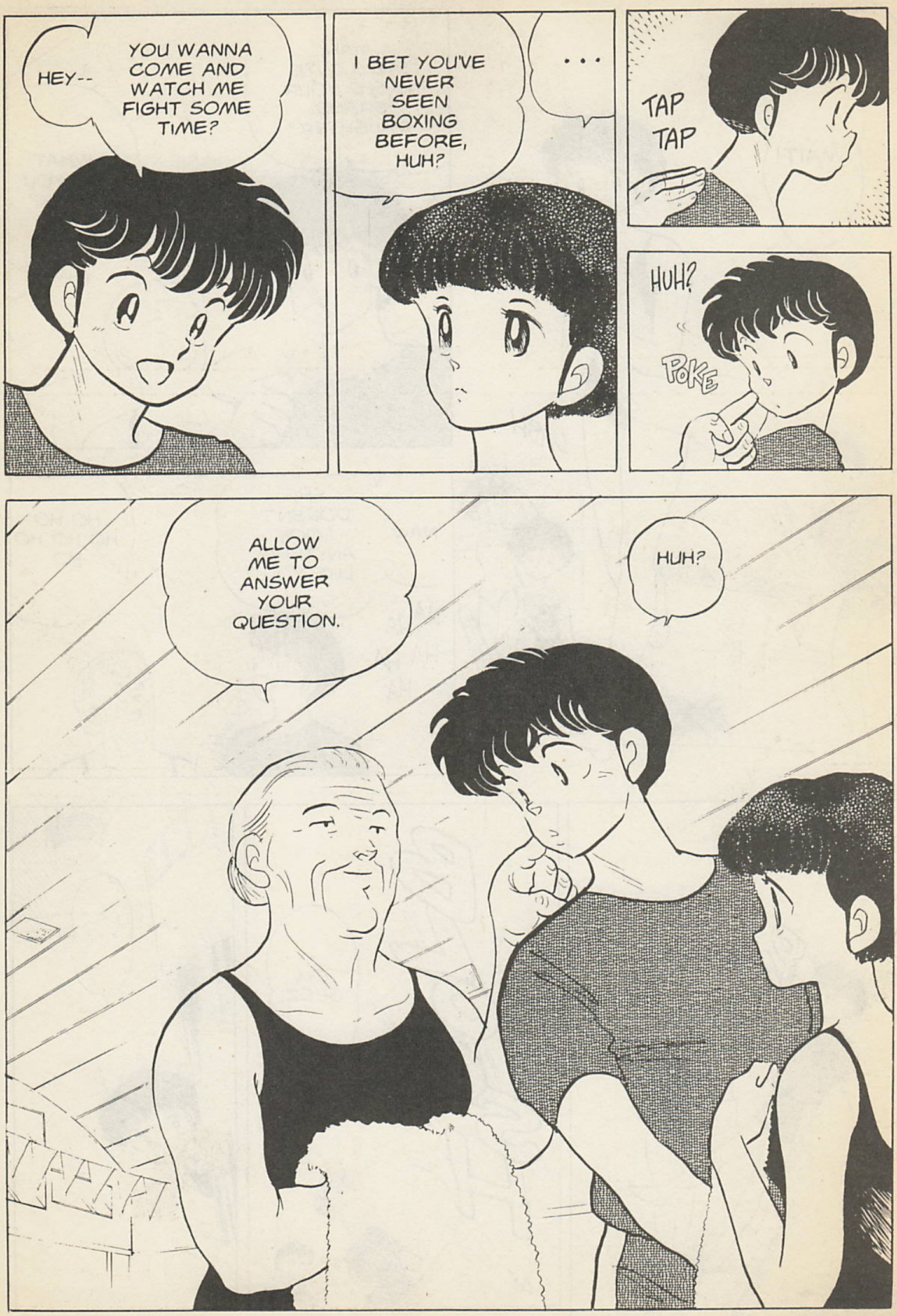
POOL
YOU'RE GOING SKIRT-CHASING?
BUT YOU'RE ON THE CLOCK, HATANAKA!
SPLASH
LOVE AT FIRST SIGHT!
CLUNK
HUH?
I THOUGHT HE WAS STAYING TRUE TO SISTER ANGELA.
HE IS. . .
. . .THE WAY HE STAYS TRUE TO A DIET.
SISTER, PLEASE FORGIVE ME.
I AM ABOUT TO BE UN-FAITHFUL!

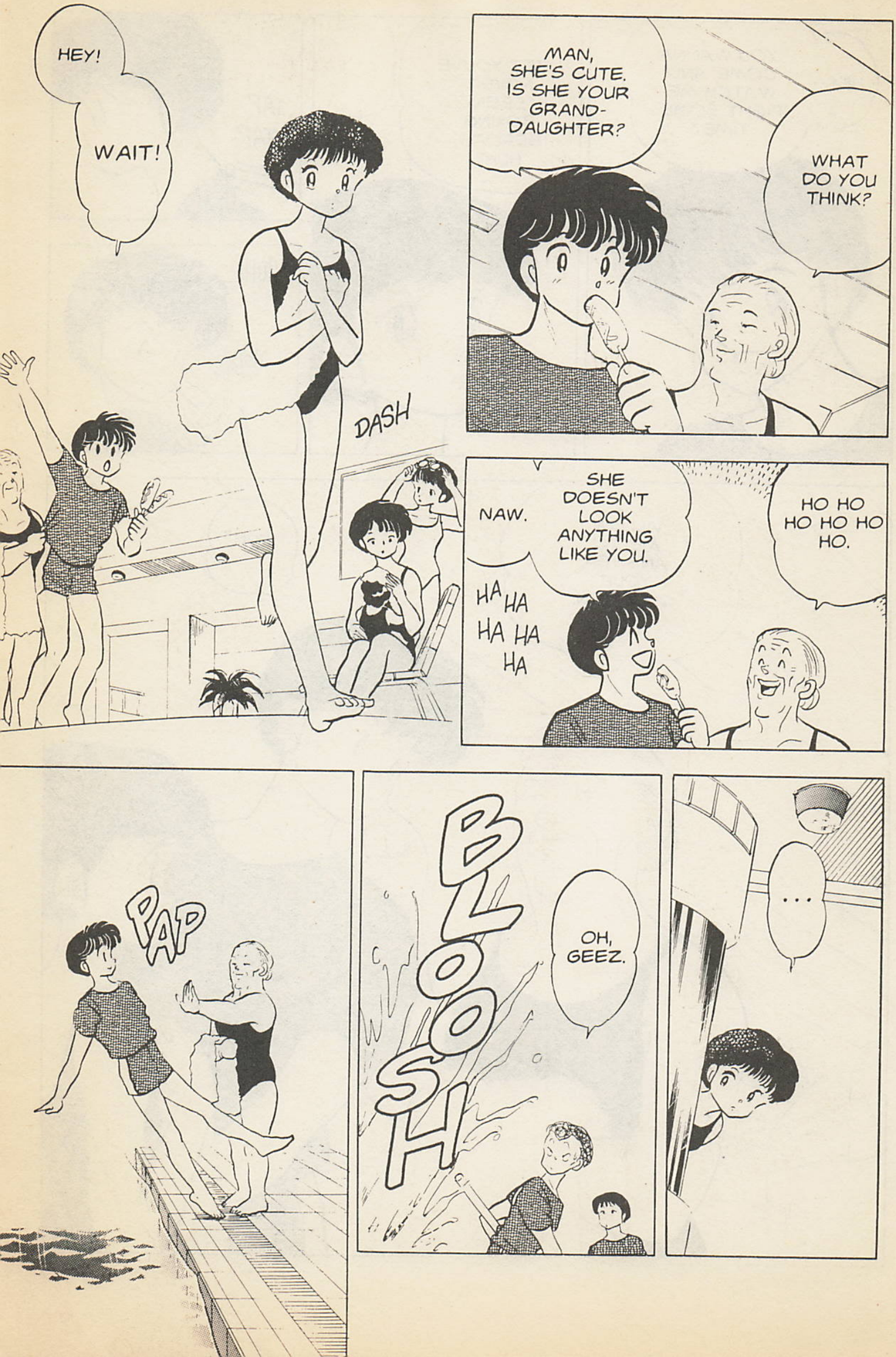


ONE-POUND GOSPEL

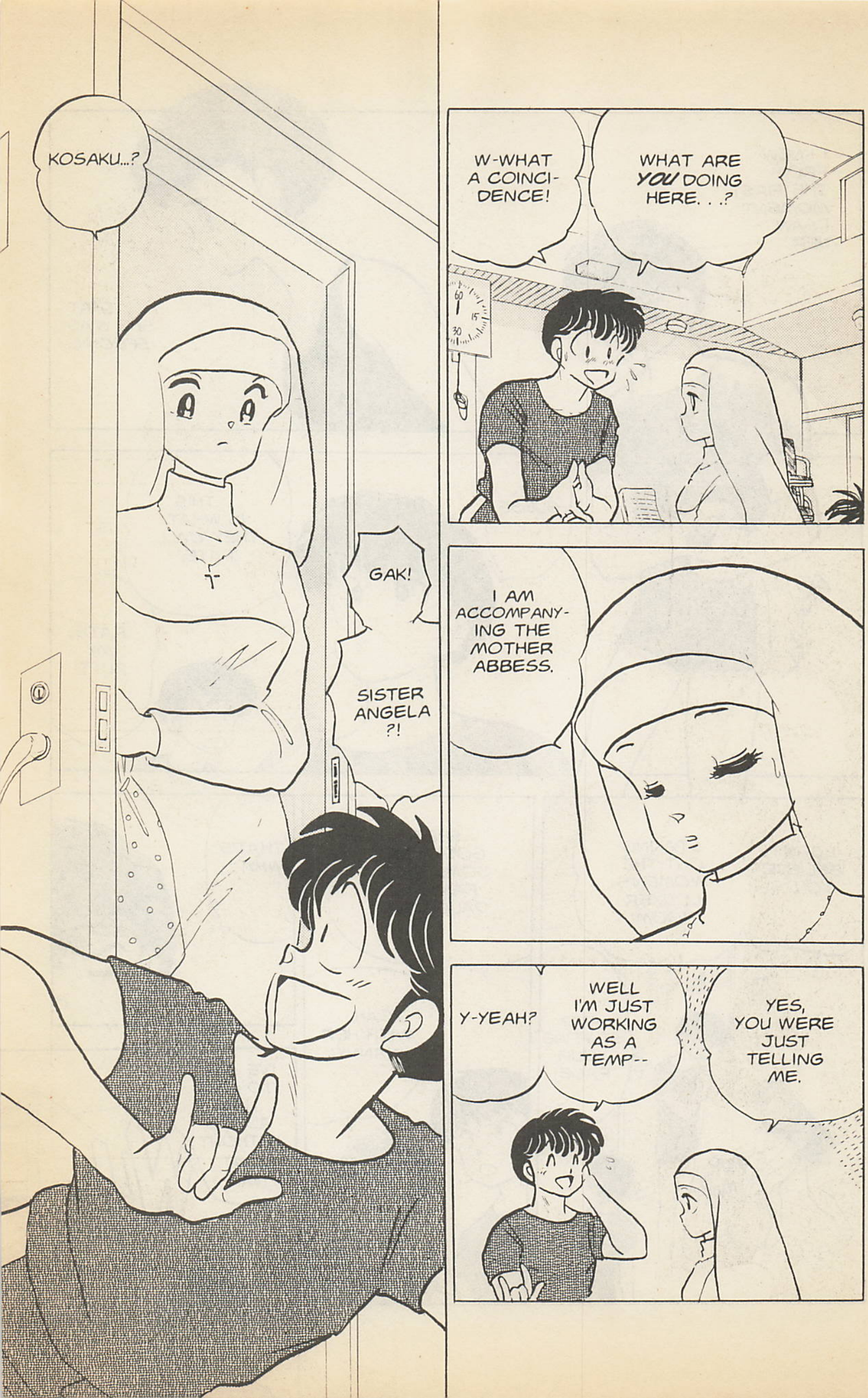
THE LAMB WHO CROSSED HIMSELF
PART ONE

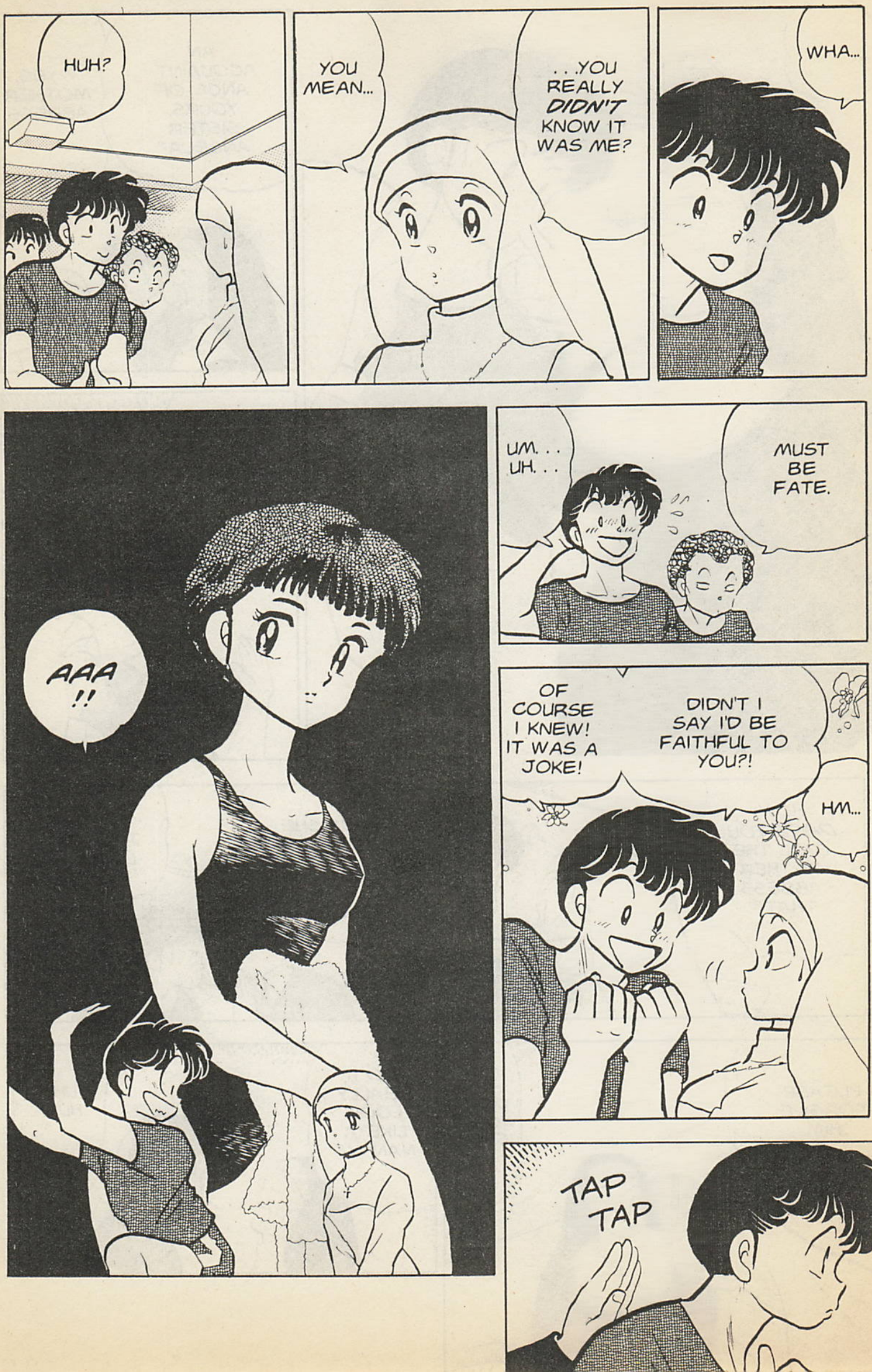
HEY THERE.
WANT TO SHARE?
...
Y'KNOW, I JUST WORK AS A TEMP HERE.
CAN YOU GUESS MY REAL JOB?
C'MON, GUESS!
GIVE UP? I'M A BOXER!
HA HA HA HA HA!
PATHETIC IDIOT.
OH, GOD.

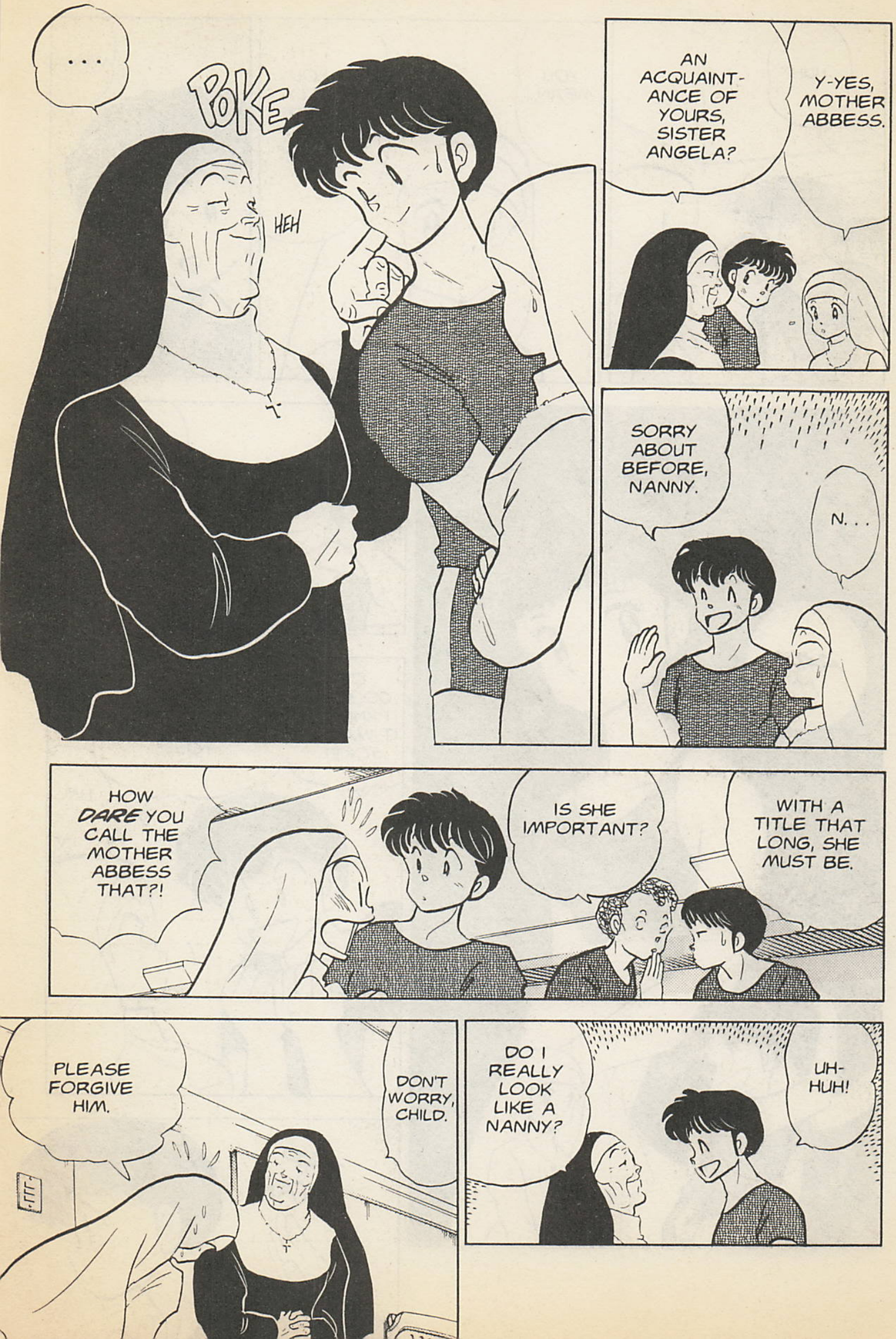

HEY--
YOU WANNA COME AND WATCH ME FIGHT SOME TIME?
I BET YOU'VE NEVER SEEN BOXING BEFORE, HUH?
...
TAP TAP
HUH?
POKE
ALLOW ME TO ANSWER YOUR QUESTION.
HUH?


HEY!
WAIT!
DASH
MAN, SHE'S CUTE. IS SHE YOUR GRAND-DAUGHTER?
WHAT DO YOU THINK?
NAW.
SHE DOESN'T LOOK ANYTHING LIKE YOU.
HO HO HO HO HO HO.
HA HA HA HA HA
PAP
BLOOSH
OH, GEEZ.
...

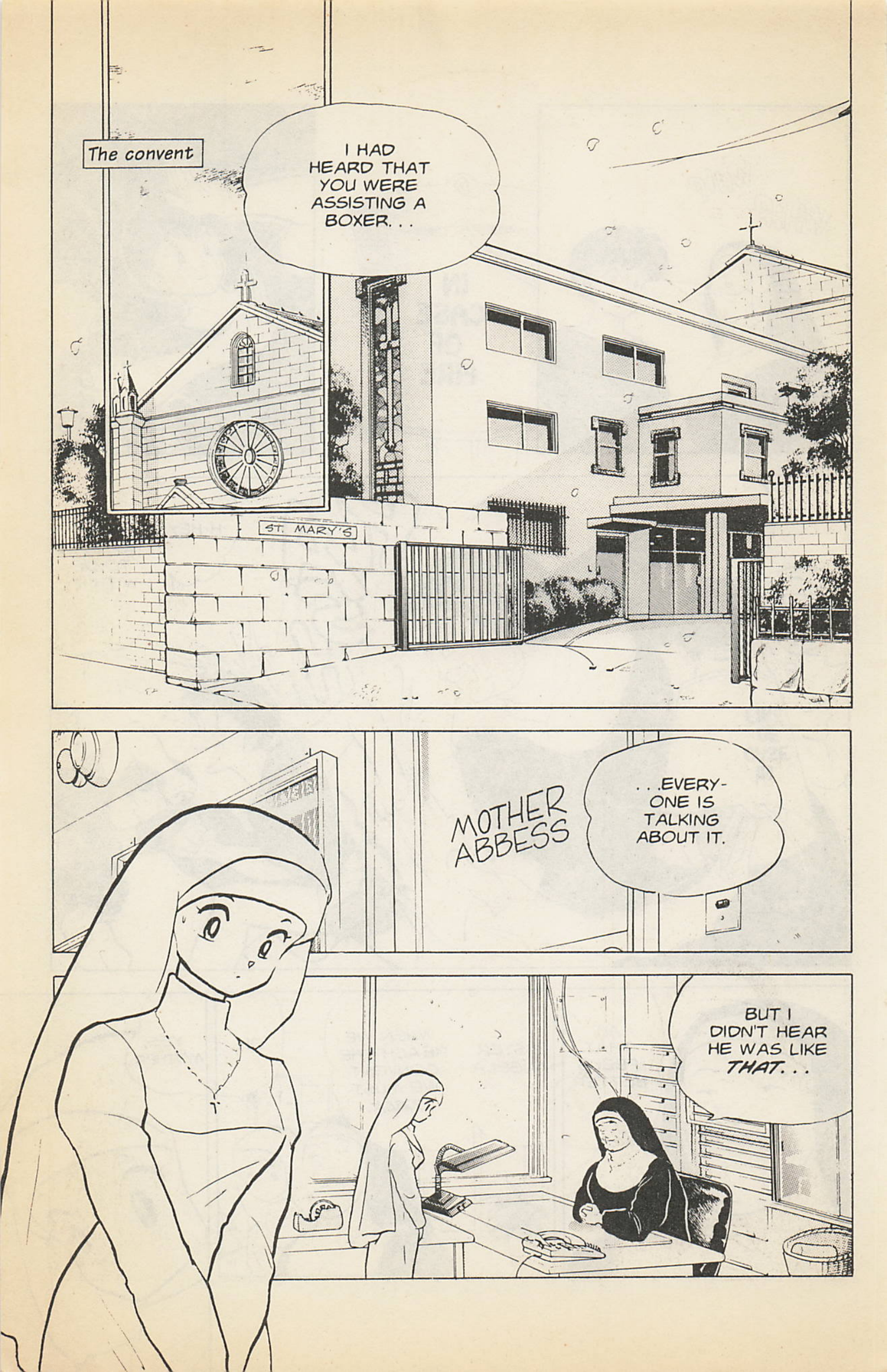
I KNEW FROM THE FIRST MOMENT I SAW HER. . .
SIGH
. . .THAT SHE WAS SPECIAL.
SKWIRK
I GUESS . . .
. . .THIS IS WHAT THEY CALL "FATE."
FATE, MY BUTT!
I CAN'T BELIEVE YOU. . .
STAKING OUT THE WOMEN'S LOCKER ROOM!
Women
AND STUFFING YOUR FACE!
MOP MOP
SHE'S GOTTA BE SOME RICH FAMILY'S DAUGHTER.
YEAH. . . WITH HER NANNY!
THAT'S WHY. . .
I'VE GOT TO GET HER ALONE, WITHOUT THAT NAN--
WHAM

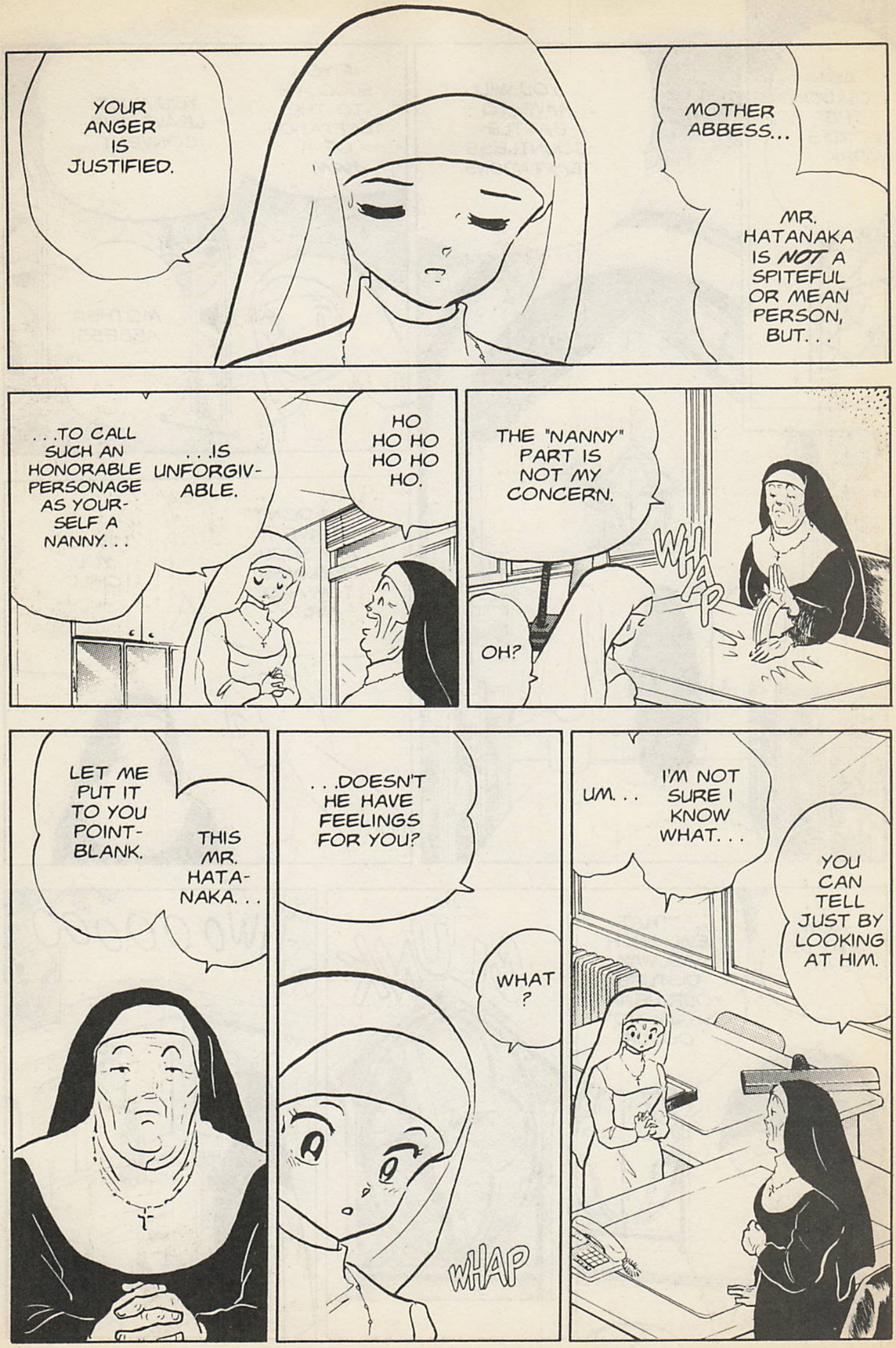

KOSAKU...?
GAK!
SISTER ANGELA ?!
W-WHAT A COINCI-DENCE!
WHAT ARE YOU DOING HERE. . .?
I AM ACCOMPANY-ING THE MOTHER ABBESS.
Y-YEAH?
WELL I'M JUST WORKING AS A TEMP--
YES, YOU WERE JUST TELLING ME.

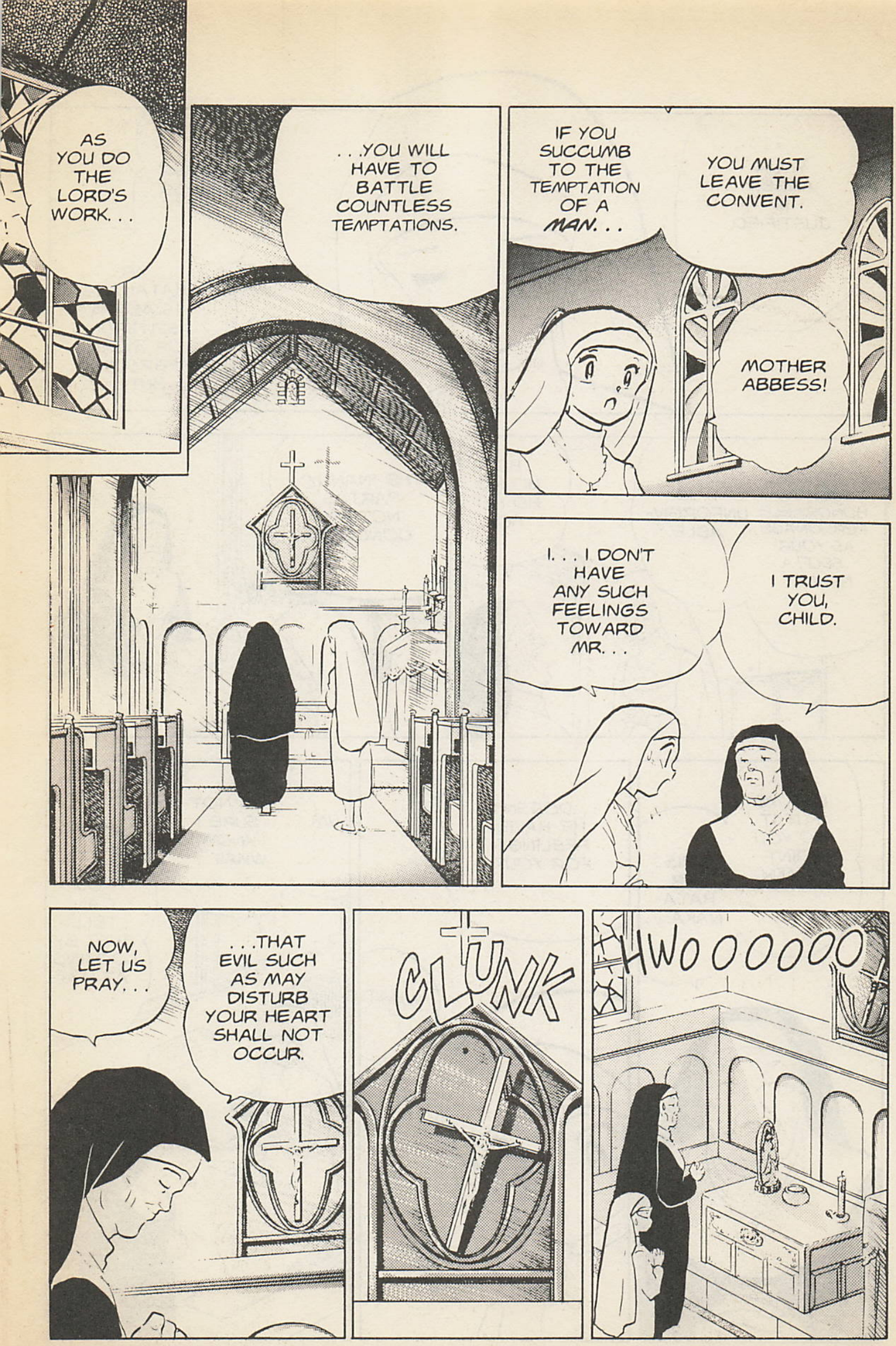

HUH?
YOU MEAN...
. . .YOU REALLY *DIDN'T* KNOW IT WAS ME?
WHA...
AAA !!
UM. . . UH. . .
MUST BE FATE.
OF COURSE I KNEW! IT WAS A JOKE!
DIDN'T I SAY I'D BE FAITHFUL TO YOU?!
HM...
TAP TAP

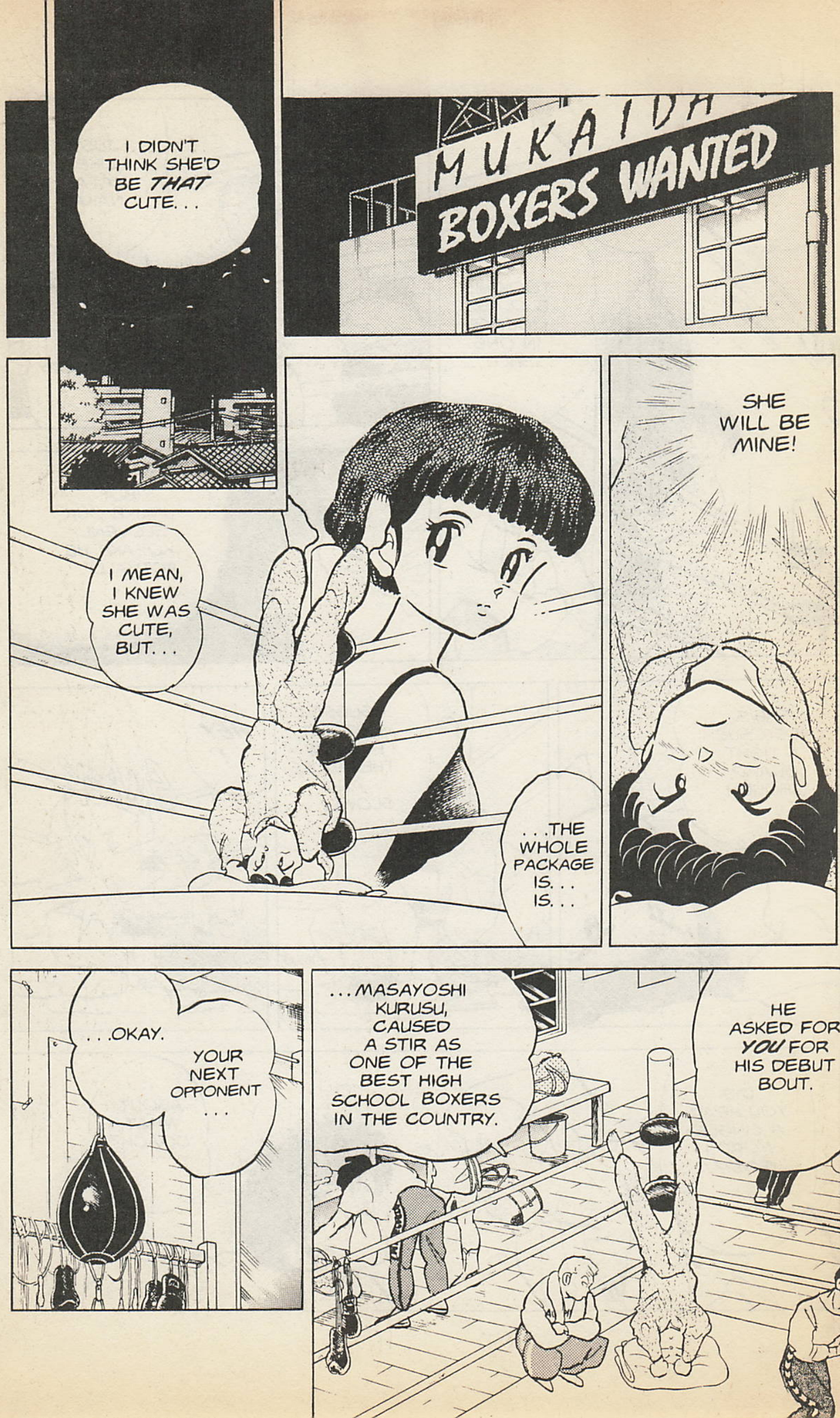

...
POKE
HEH
AN ACQUAINT-ANCE OF YOURS, SISTER ANGELA?
Y-YES, MOTHER ABBESS.
SORRY ABOUT BEFORE, NANNY.
N...
HOW DARE YOU CALL THE MOTHER ABBESS THAT?!
IS SHE IMPORTANT?
WITH A TITLE THAT LONG, SHE MUST BE.
PLEASE FORGIVE HIM.
DON'T WORRY, CHILD.
DO I REALLY LOOK LIKE A NANNY?
UH-HUH!

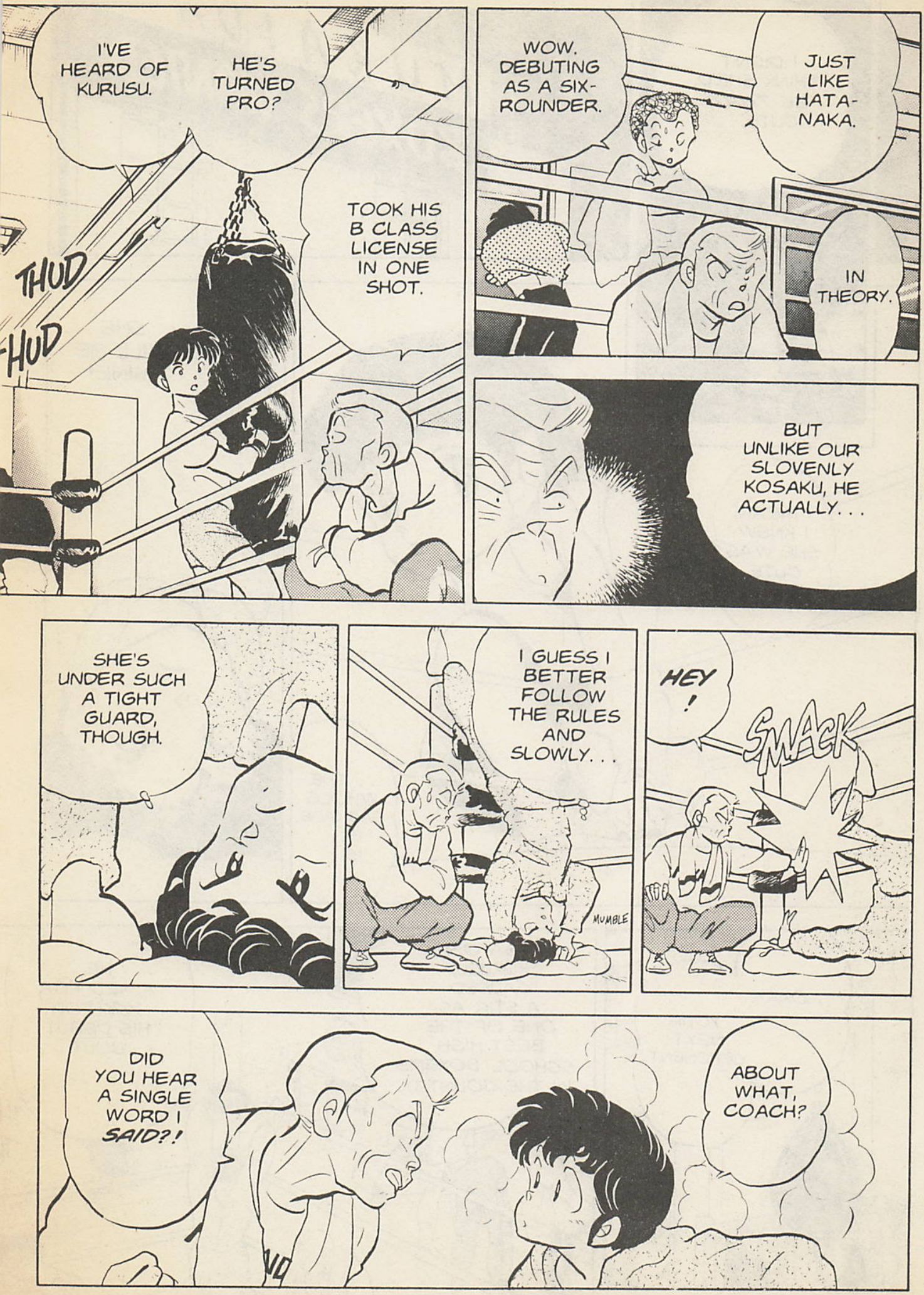
WHIP
WHIP
IN CASE OF FIRE
HEH!
IN CASE OF FIRE
PLASH
H-HEY!
WE HAD NOTHING TO DO WITH IT!
AH, THAT FEELS BETTER.
SISTER ANGELA.
WHEN WE REACH THE CONVENT WE MUST TALK.
OH...
YES, MOTHER..

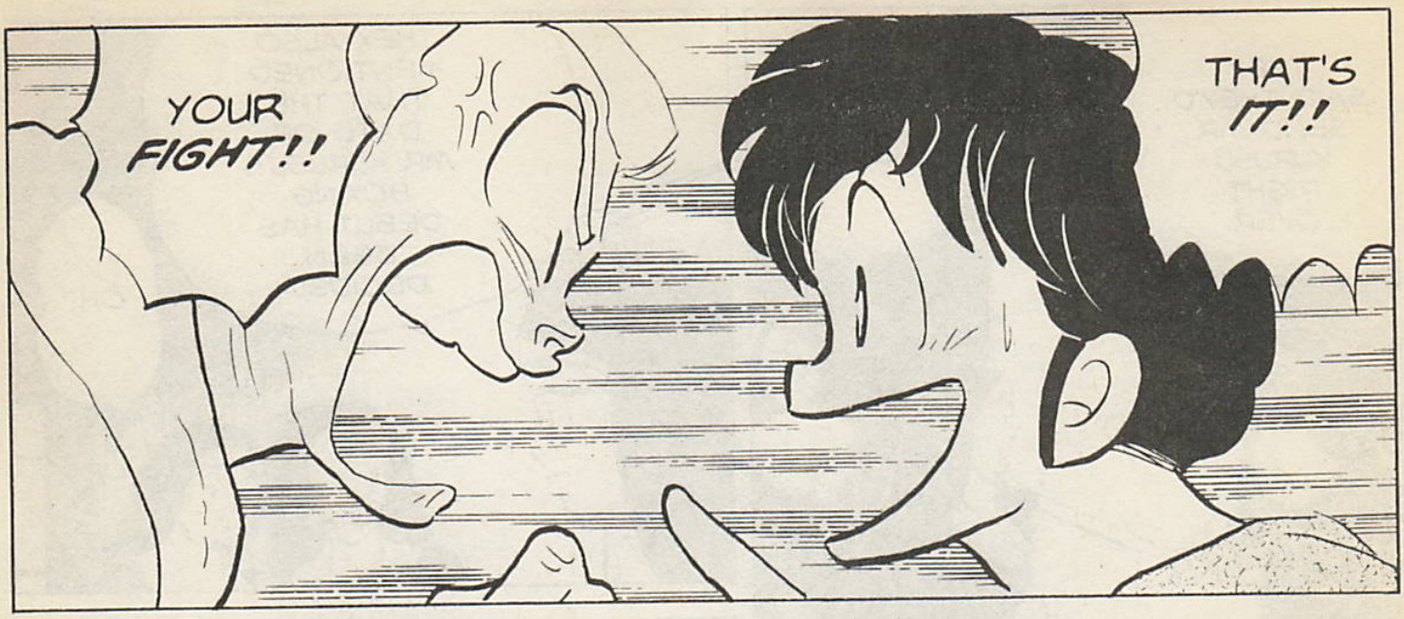

The convent
I HAD HEARD THAT YOU WERE ASSISTING A BOXER. . .
ST. MARY'S
MOTHER ABBESS
. . .EVERY-ONE IS TALKING ABOUT IT.
BUT I DIDN'T HEAR HE WAS LIKE THAT. . .


YOUR ANGER IS JUSTIFIED.
MOTHER ABBESS...
MR. HATANAKA IS *NOT* A SPITEFUL OR MEAN PERSON, BUT...
...TO CALL SUCH AN HONORABLE PERSONAGE AS YOURSELF A NANNY...
...IS UNFORGIVABLE.
HO HO HO HO HO HO.
THE "NANNY" PART IS NOT MY CONCERN.
WHAP
OH?
LET ME PUT IT TO YOU POINT-BLANK.
THIS MR. HATANAKA...
...DOESN'T HE HAVE FEELINGS FOR YOU?
WHAT?
WHAP
UM...
I'M NOT SURE I KNOW WHAT...
YOU CAN TELL JUST BY LOOKING AT HIM.

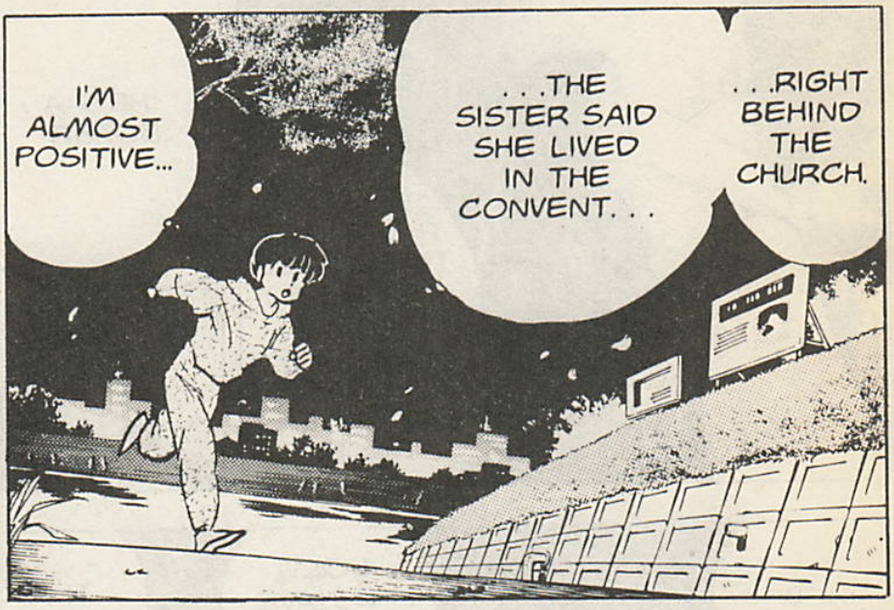

AS YOU DO THE LORD'S WORK. . .
. . .YOU WILL HAVE TO BATTLE COUNTLESS TEMPTATIONS.
IF YOU SUCCUMB TO THE TEMPTATION OF A MAN. . .
YOU MUST LEAVE THE CONVENT.
MOTHER ABBESS!
I. . . I DON'T HAVE ANY SUCH FEELINGS TOWARD MR. . .
I TRUST YOU, CHILD.
NOW, LET US PRAY. . .
. . .THAT EVIL SUCH AS MAY DISTURB YOUR HEART SHALL NOT OCCUR.
CLUNK
HWOOOOOO

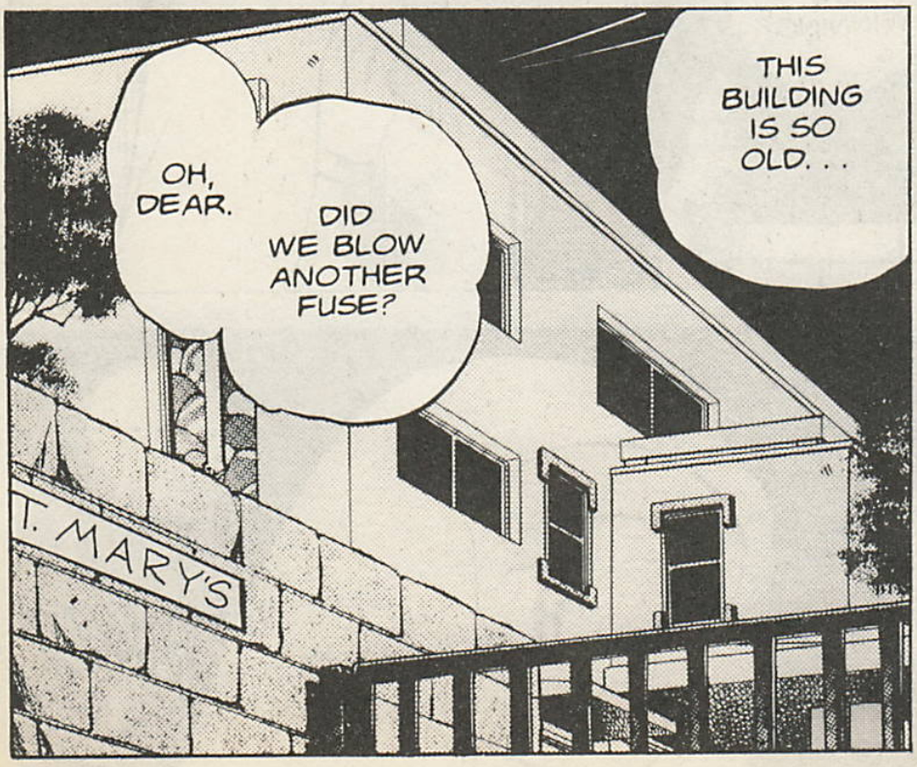

I DIDN'T THINK SHE'D BE *THAT* CUTE...
MUKAIDA
BOXERS WANTED
I MEAN, I KNEW SHE WAS CUTE, BUT...
...THE WHOLE PACKAGE IS... IS...
SHE WILL BE MINE!
...OKAY.
YOUR NEXT OPPONENT ...
...MASAYOSHI KURUSU, CAUSED A STIR AS ONE OF THE BEST HIGH SCHOOL BOXERS IN THE COUNTRY.
HE ASKED FOR *YOU* FOR HIS DEBUT BOUT.

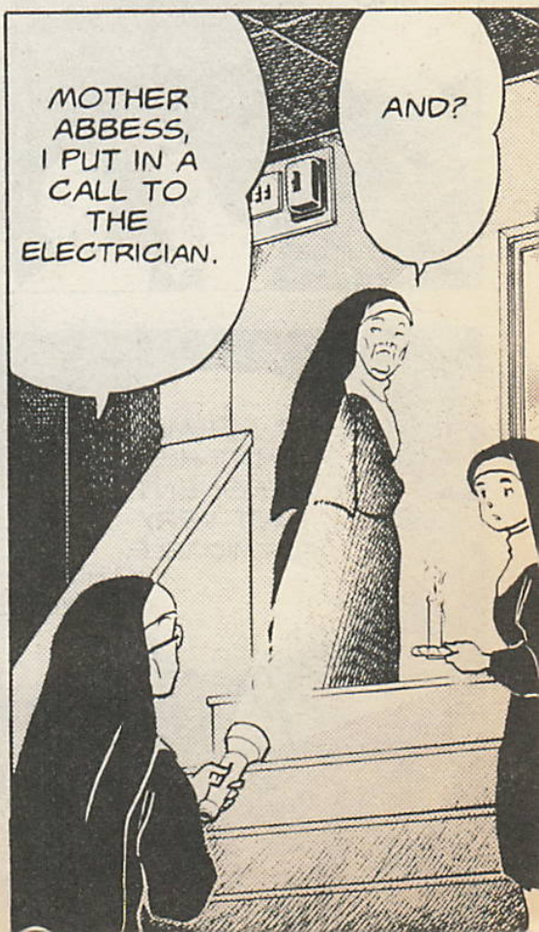

I'VE HEARD OF KURUSU.
HE'S TURNED PRO?
TOOK HIS B CLASS LICENSE IN ONE SHOT.
THUD
HUD
WOW. DEBUTING AS A SIX-ROUNDER.
JUST LIKE HATA-NAKA.
IN THEORY.
BUT UNLIKE OUR SLOVENLY KOSAKU, HE ACTUALLY. . .
SHE'S UNDER SUCH A TIGHT GUARD, THOUGH.
I GUESS I BETTER FOLLOW THE RULES AND SLOWLY. . .
MUMBLE
HEY!
SMACK
DID YOU HEAR A SINGLE WORD I SAID?!
ABOUT WHAT, COACH?

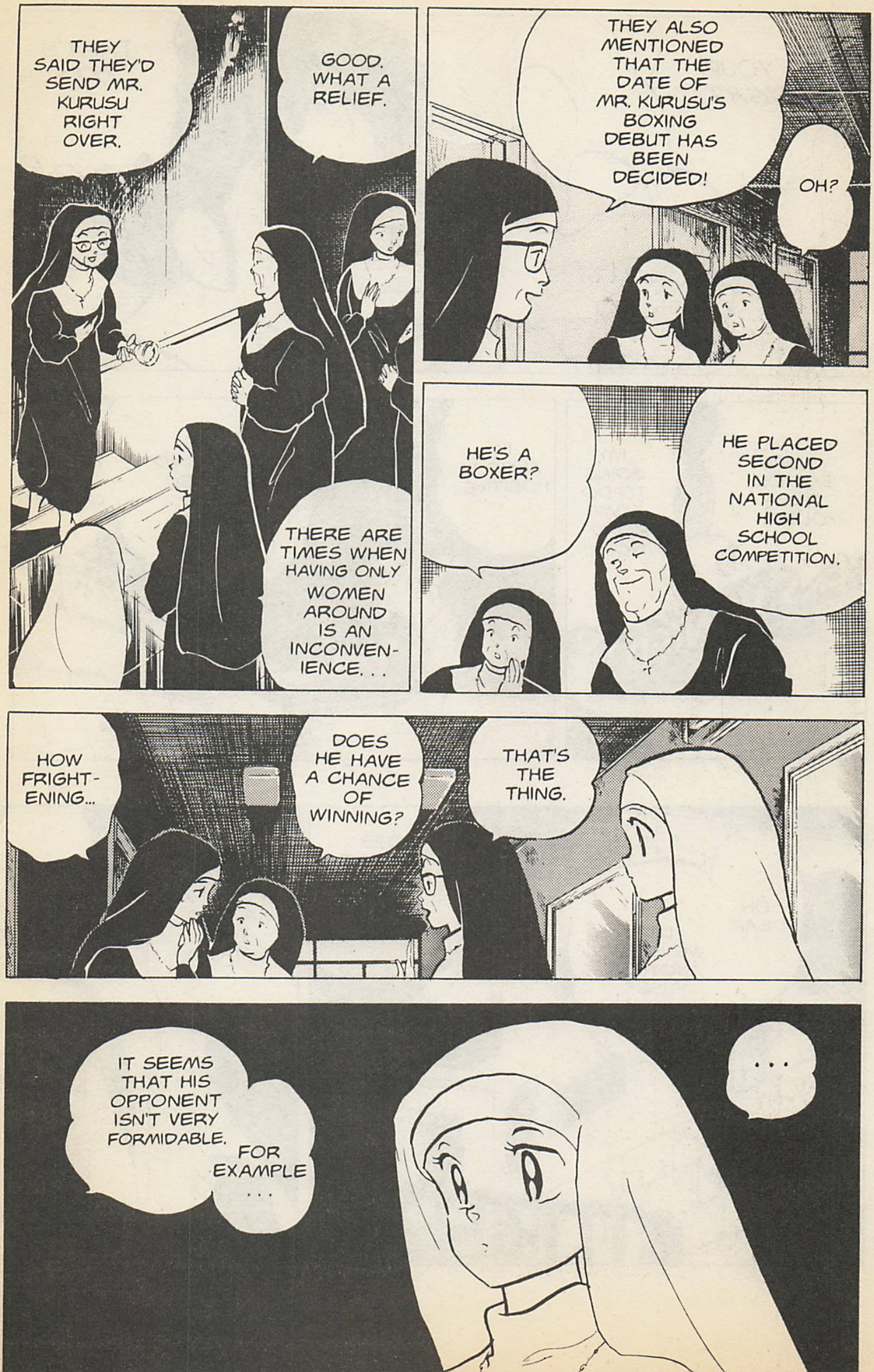

YOUR FIGHT!!
THAT'S IT!!

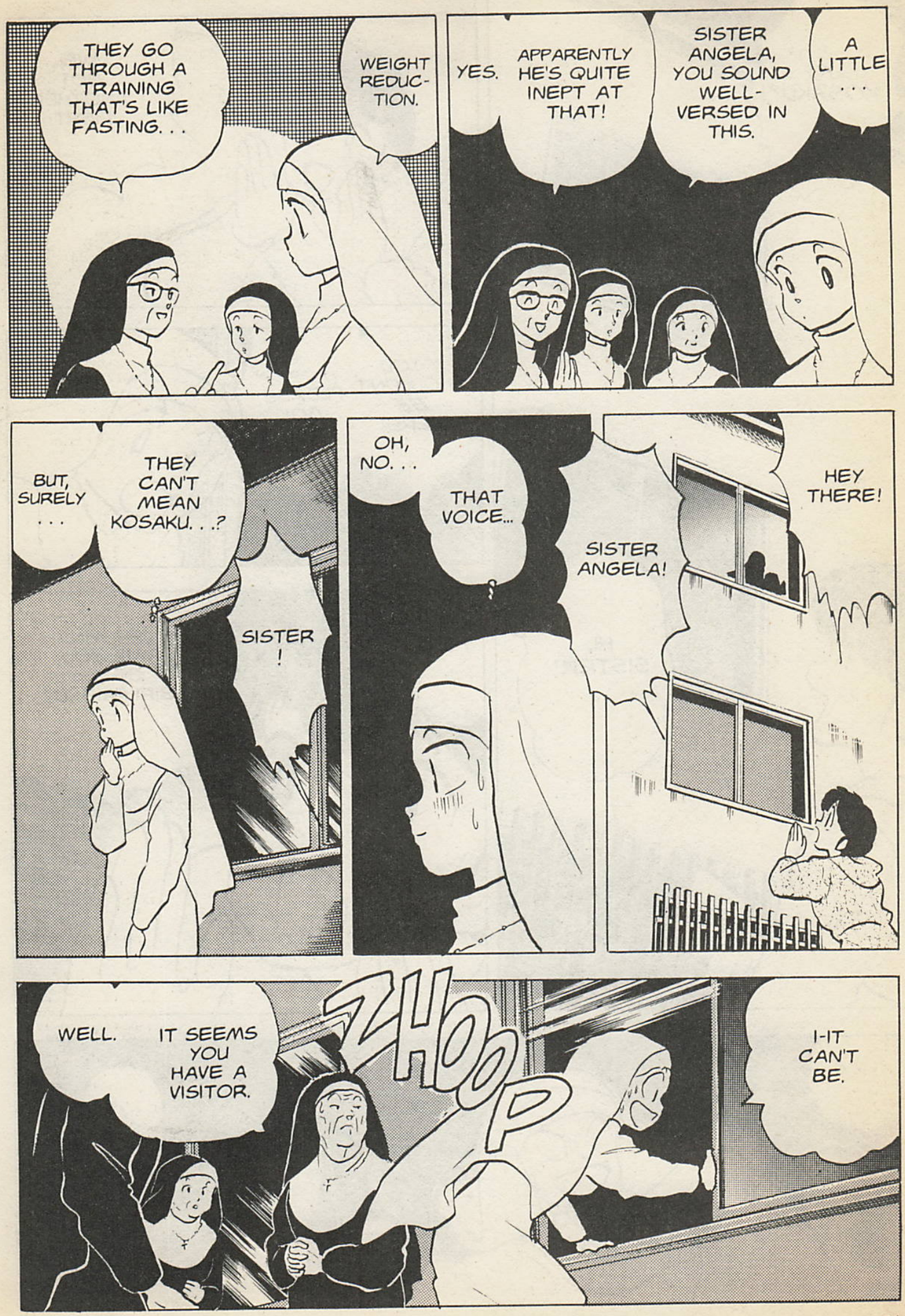
KOSAKU, WHERE DO YOU THINK YOU'RE--
I'M GOING TO DO SOME ROAD-WORK!
WANTED

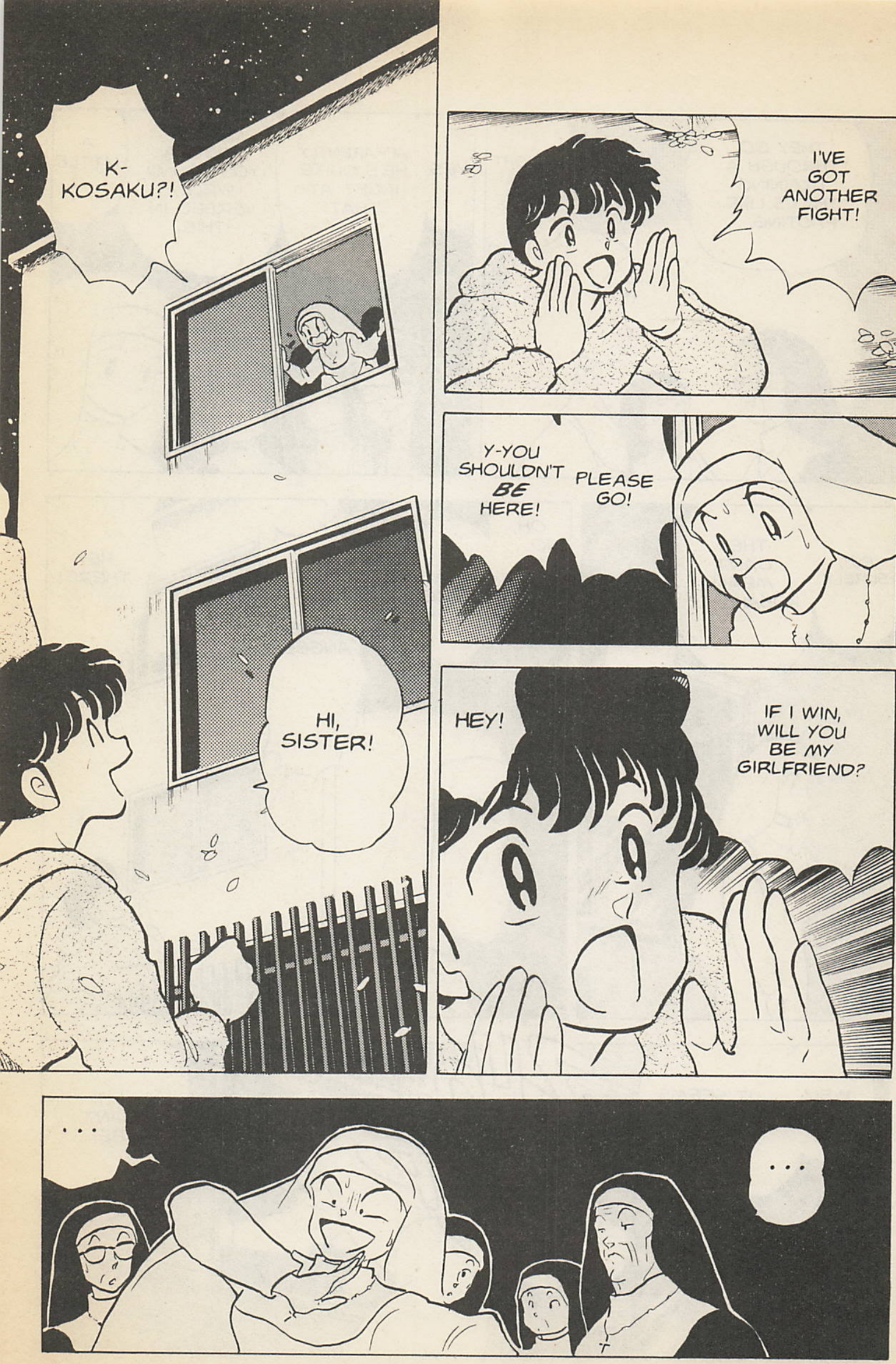

I'M ALMOST POSITIVE...
. . .THE SISTER SAID SHE LIVED IN THE CONVENT. . .
. . .RIGHT BEHIND THE CHURCH.


THIS BUILDING IS SO OLD. . .
OH, DEAR.
DID WE BLOW ANOTHER FUSE?
T. MARY'S


MOTHER ABBESS, I PUT IN A CALL TO THE ELECTRICIAN.
AND?


THEY SAID THEY'D SEND MR. KURUSU RIGHT OVER.
GOOD. WHAT A RELIEF.
THERE ARE TIMES WHEN HAVING ONLY WOMEN AROUND IS AN INCONVENIENCE...
THEY ALSO MENTIONED THAT THE DATE OF MR. KURUSU'S BOXING DEBUT HAS BEEN DECIDED!
OH?
HE'S A BOXER?
HE PLACED SECOND IN THE NATIONAL HIGH SCHOOL COMPETITION.
HOW FRIGHTENING...
DOES HE HAVE A CHANCE OF WINNING?
THAT'S THE THING.
IT SEEMS THAT HIS OPPONENT ISN'T VERY FORMIDABLE.
FOR EXAMPLE...
...

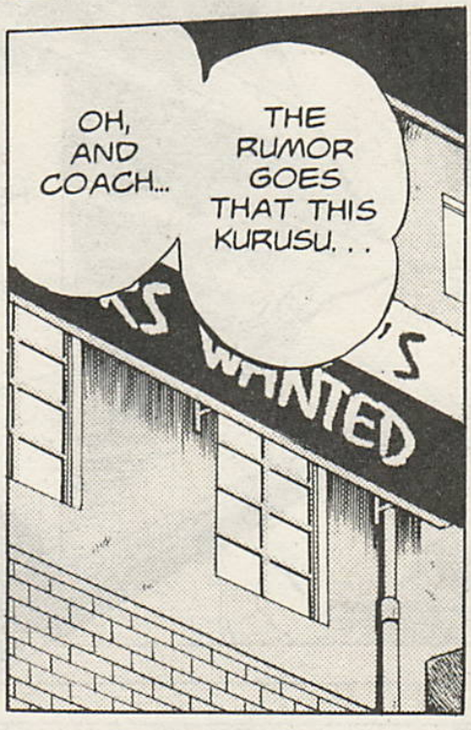

THEY GO THROUGH A TRAINING THAT'S LIKE FASTING. . .
WEIGHT REDUC-TION.
YES.
APPARENTLY HE'S QUITE INEPT AT THAT!
SISTER ANGELA, YOU SOUND WELL-VERSED IN THIS.
A LITTLE . . .
BUT, SURELY . . .
THEY CAN'T MEAN KOSAKU. . .?
SISTER !
OH, NO. . .
THAT VOICE...
SISTER ANGELA!
HEY THERE!
WELL.
IT SEEMS YOU HAVE A VISITOR.
ZHOOP
I-IT CAN'T BE.

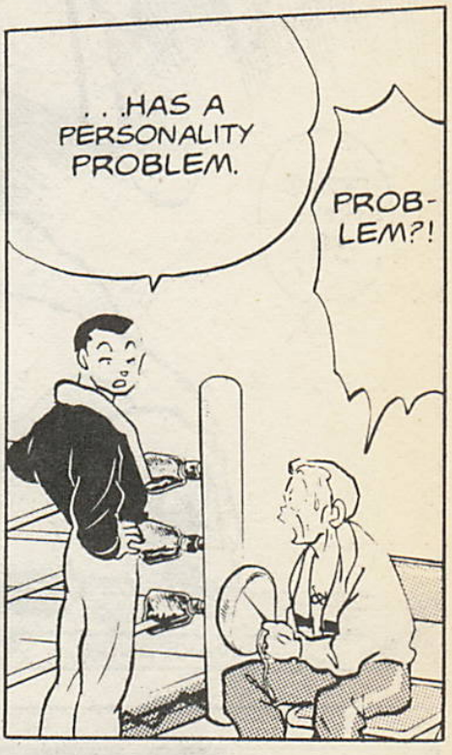

K-
KOSAKU?!
HI,
SISTER!
I'VE
GOT
ANOTHER
FIGHT!
Y-YOU
SHOULDN'T
BE
HERE!
PLEASE
GO!
HEY!
IF I WIN,
WILL YOU
BE MY
GIRLFRIEND?
...
...

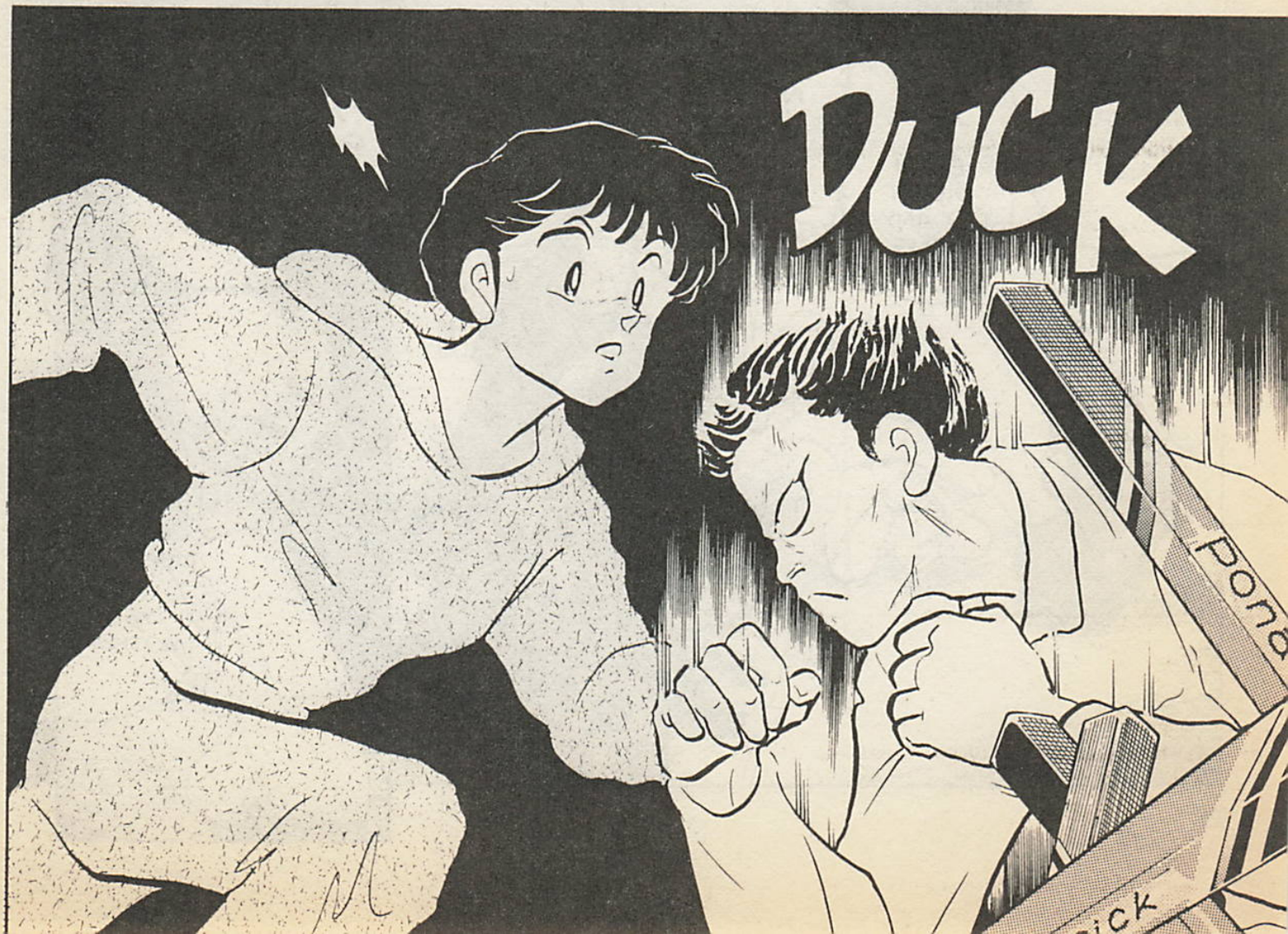
LEAVE AT ONCE!
MEN ARE NOT ALLOWED ON CONVENT GROUNDS!
OH.
YOU LIVE HERE TOO, NANNY?
IN CASE OF FIRE
BVOOSH
HOLD HIM FOR QUESTIONING!
TUMP TUMP
SKREEK

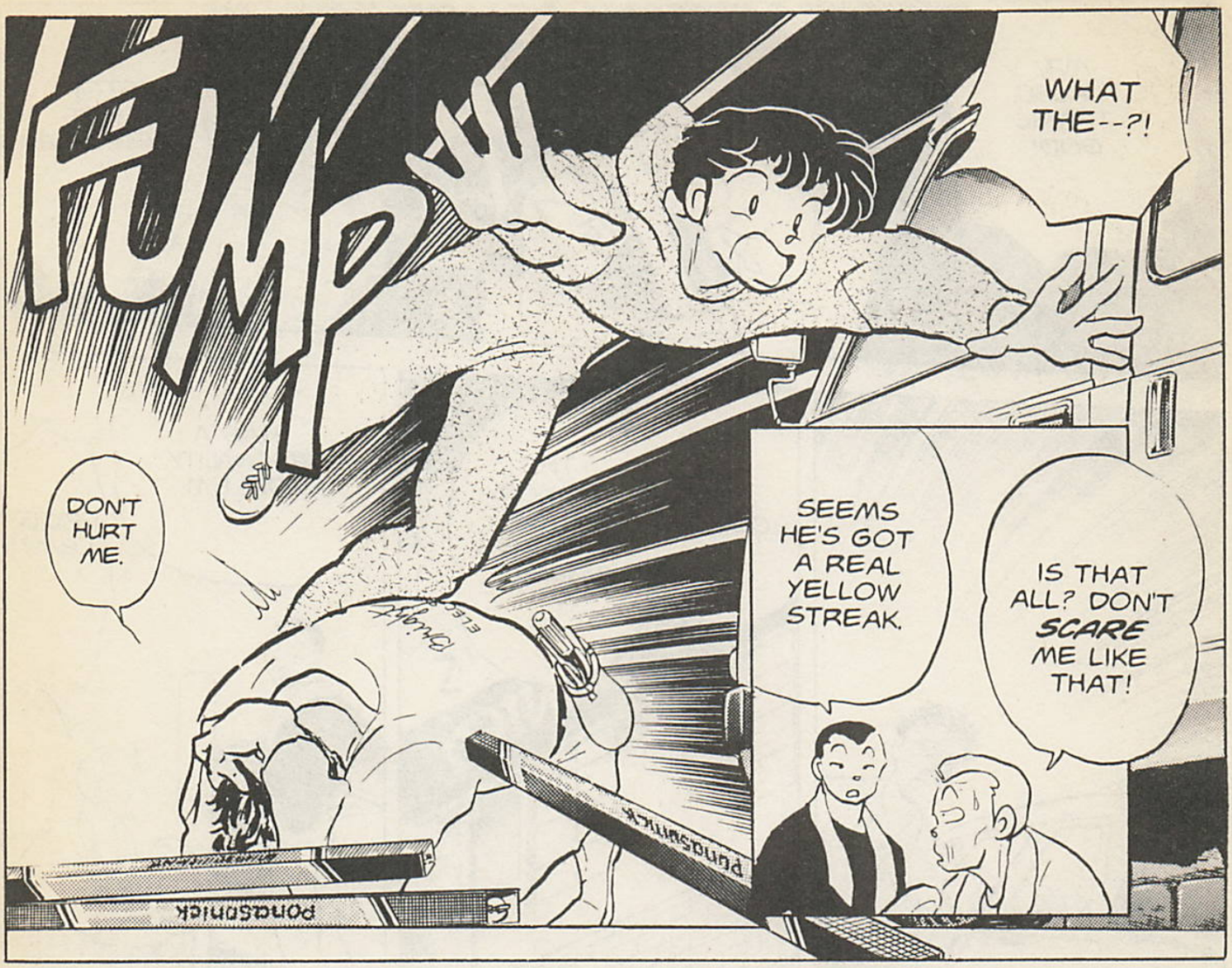
SLAM
Bright Lights
ELECTRICIANS
HE'S RUNNING AWAY!
STOP HIM!
TUMP TUMP
RRR
OH!
VOOM
panasonick
panasonic
!
Bright Lights
ELECTRICIANS

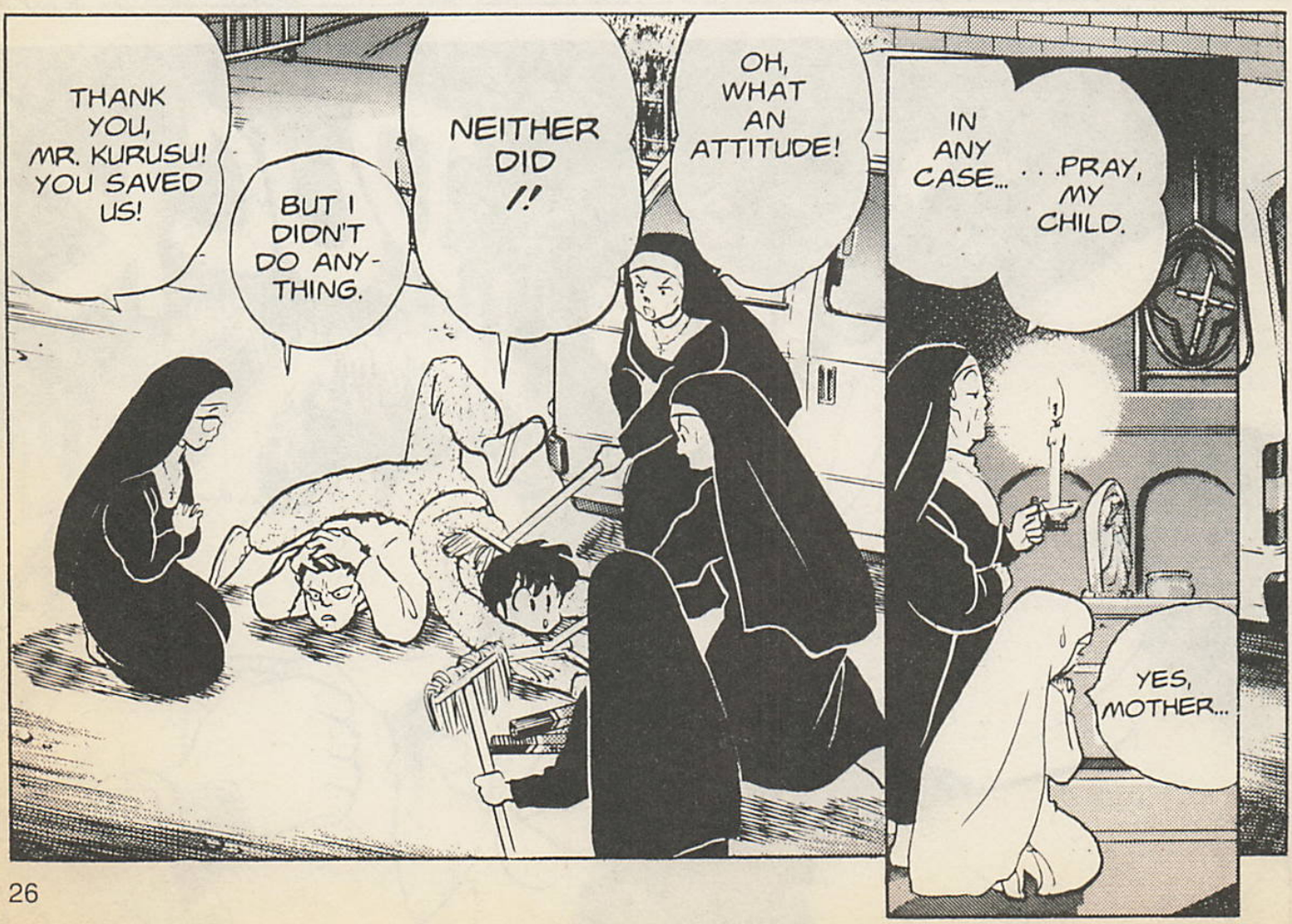
MR. KURUSU, THANK GOD!
STOP THAT TRESPASSER!


OH, AND COACH...
THE RUMOR GOES THAT THIS KURUSU...
'S WANTED


...HAS A PERSONALITY PROBLEM.
PROB-LEM?!

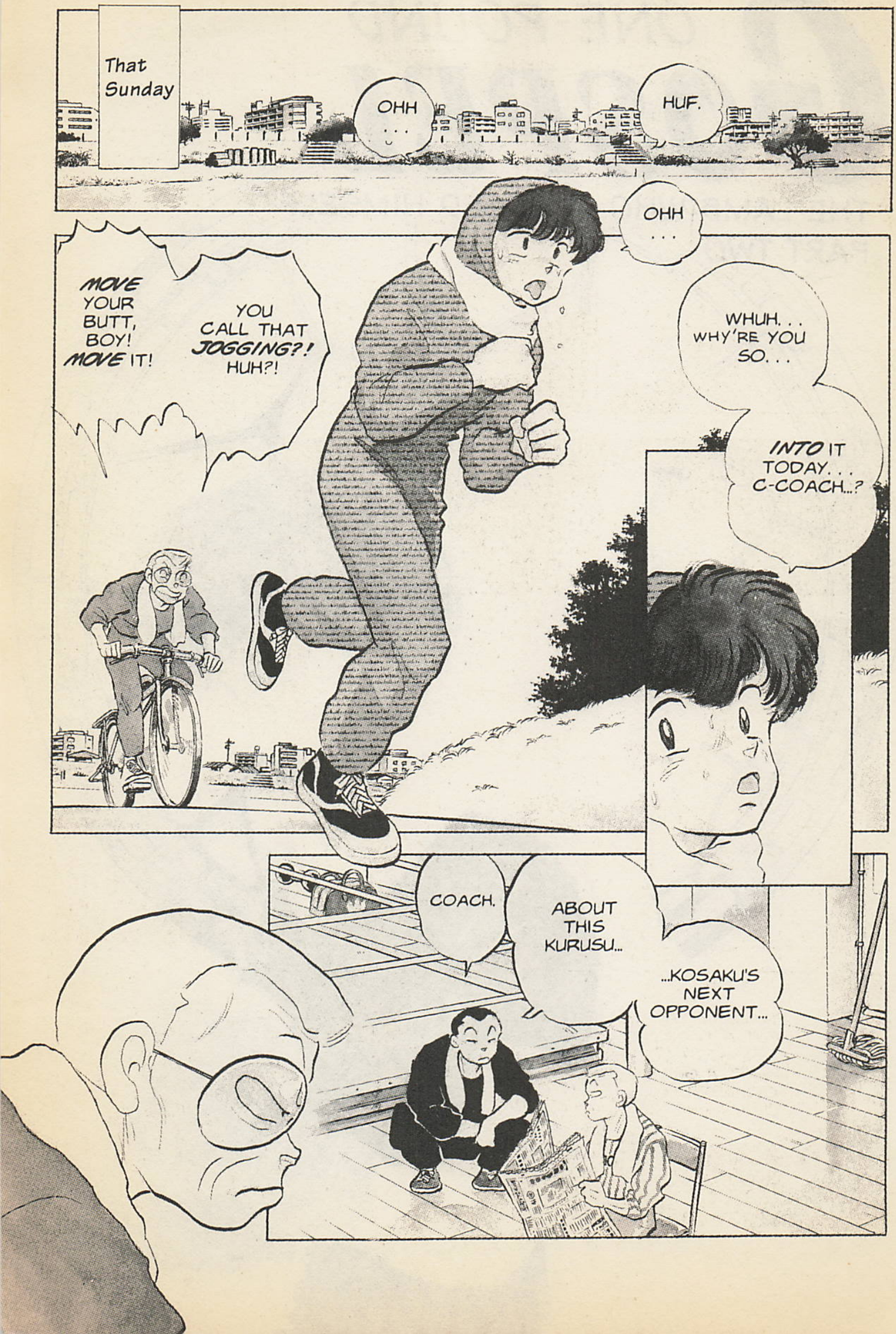

DUCK


FUMP
WHAT THE--?!
DON'T HURT ME.
SEEMS HE'S GOT A REAL YELLOW STREAK.
IS THAT ALL? DON'T SCARE ME LIKE THAT!

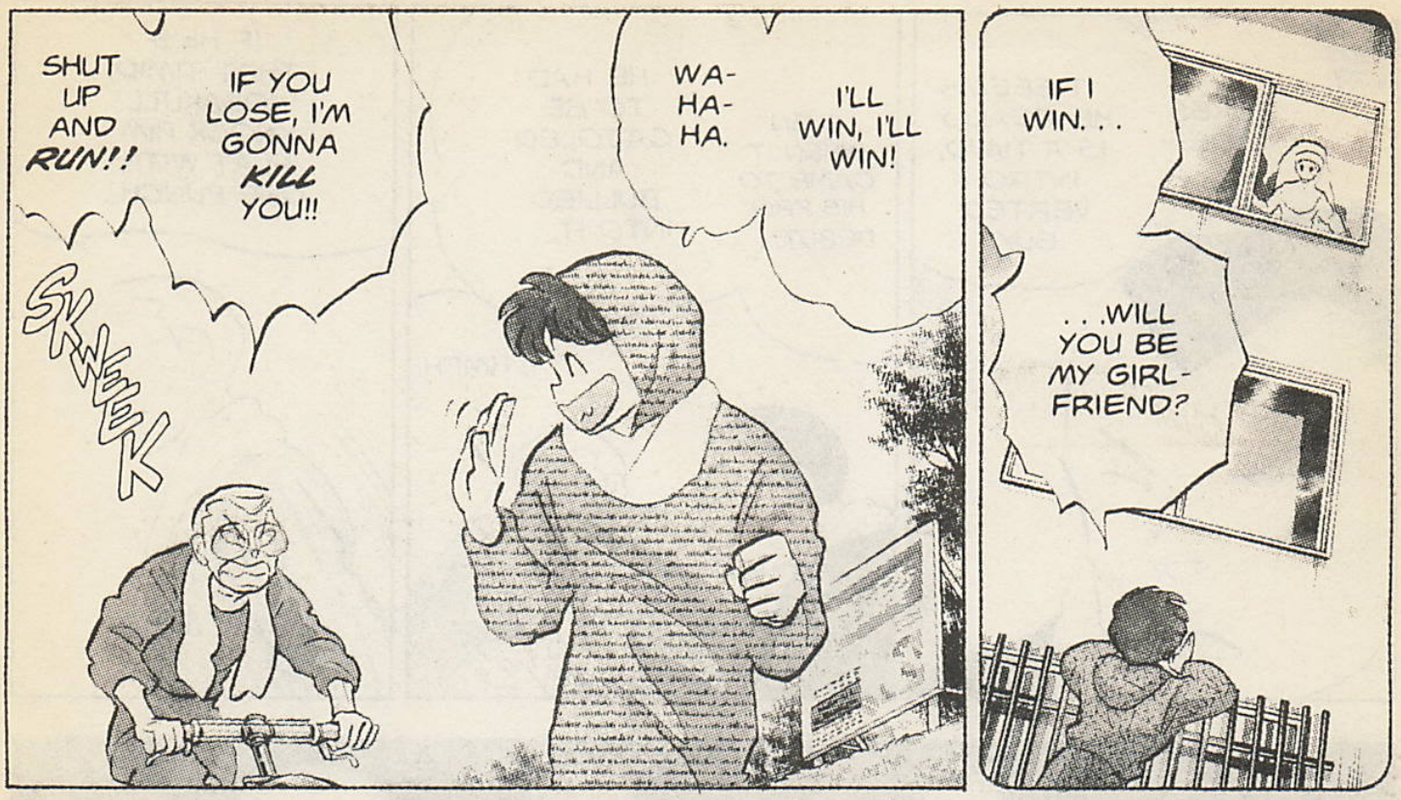

THANK YOU, MR. KURUSU! YOU SAVED US!
BUT I DIDN'T DO ANY-THING.
NEITHER DID !!
OH, WHAT AN ATTITUDE!
IN ANY CASE...
. . .PRAY, MY CHILD.
YES, MOTHER...

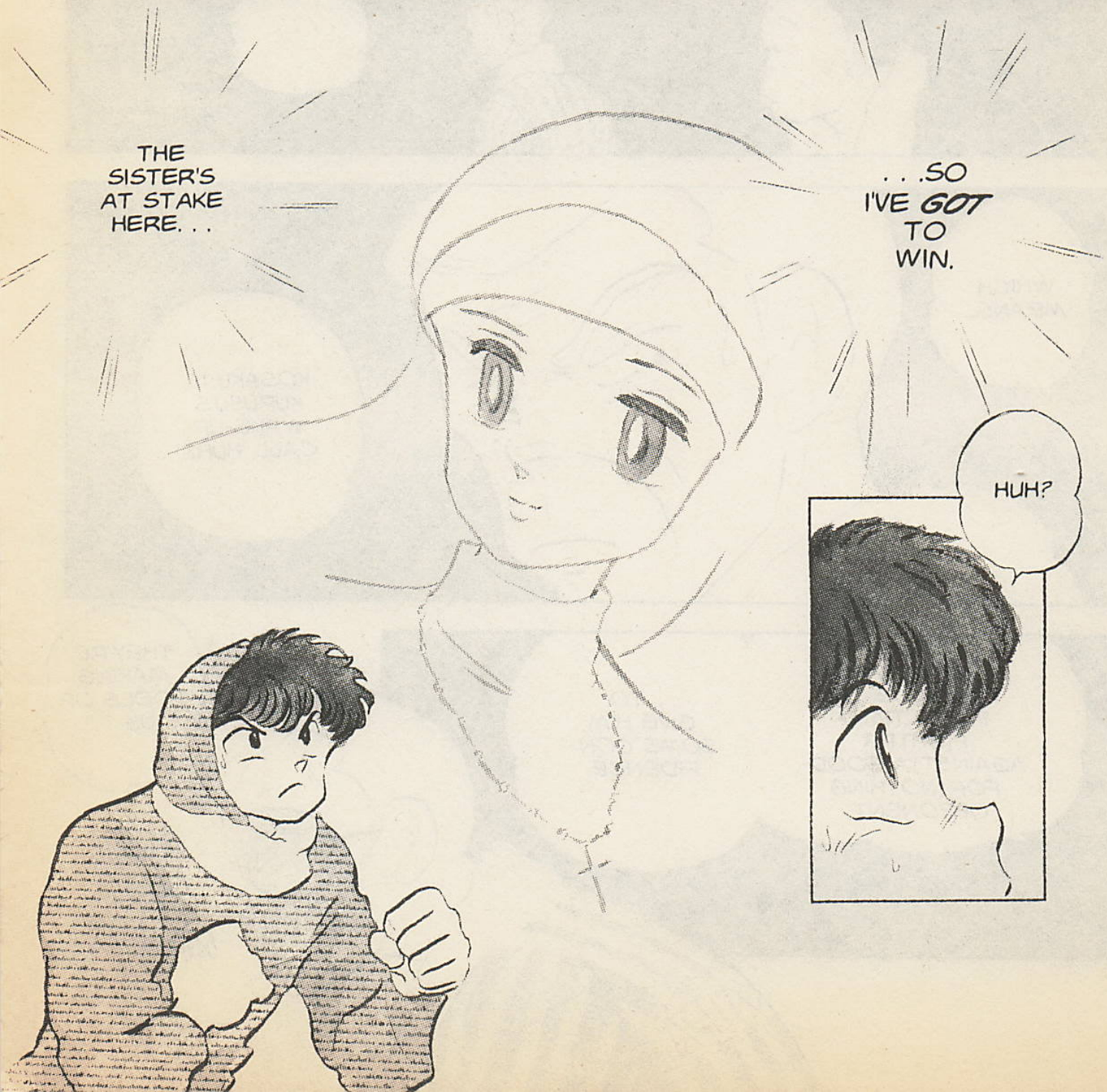
ONE-POUND GOSPEL

THE LAMB WHO CROSSED HIMSELF
PART TWO

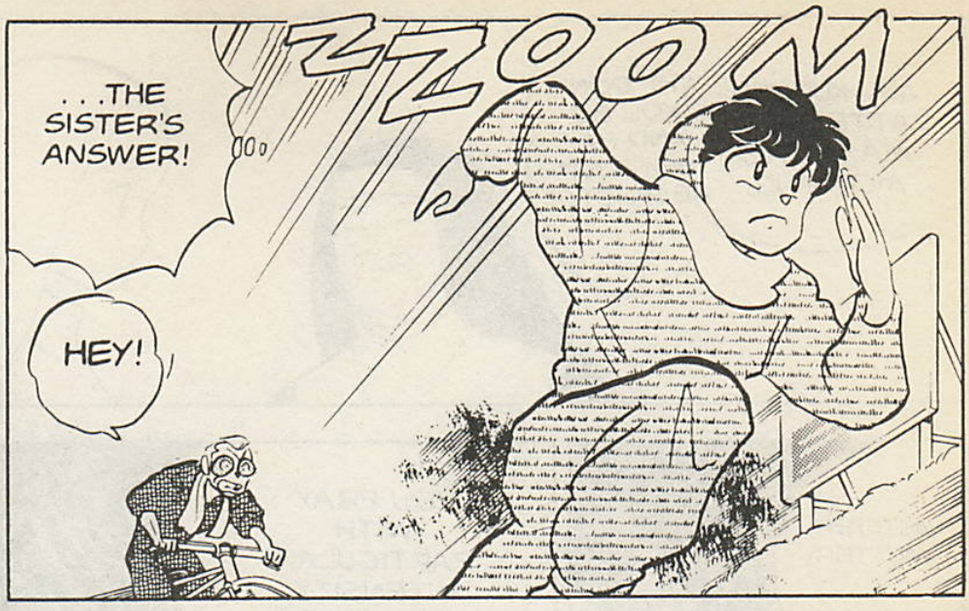

That Sunday
OHH . . .
HUF.
OHH . . .
MOVE YOUR BUTT, BOY! MOVE IT!
YOU CALL THAT JOGGING?! HUH?!
WHUH. . . WHY'RE YOU SO. . .
INTO IT TODAY. . . C-COACH...?
COACH.
ABOUT THIS KURUSU...
...KOSAKU'S NEXT OPPONENT...

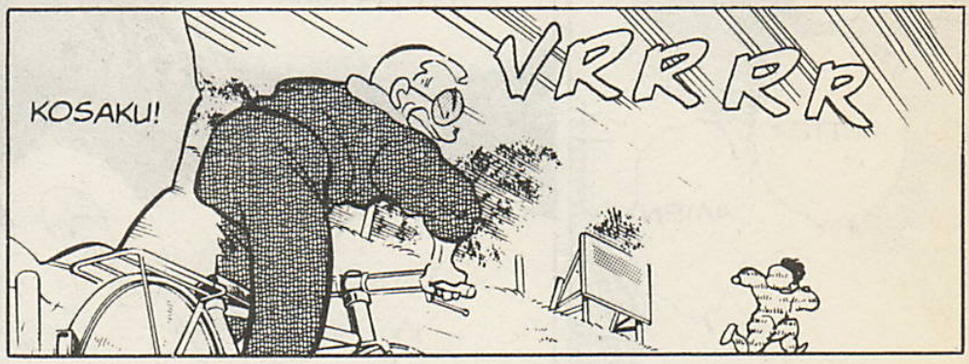
JOKES ASIDE--
IT SEEMS HE REALLY IS A TIMID, INTRO-VERTED GUY.
EVEN WHEN IT CAME TO HIS PRO DEBUT. . .
HE HAD TO BE CAJOLED AND BULLIED INTO IT. . .
HMPH.
IF HE'S THAT TIMID, KOSAKU'LL KNOCK HIM FLAT WITH ONE PUNCH...
. . .
WHICH MEANS...
KOSAKU IS KURUSU'S WAKE-UP CALL, HUH?
WELL, IT IS COMMON PRACTICE TO PUT A TIMID FIGHTER AGAINST A GOOD-FOR-NOTHING OPPONENT...
. . .TO GIVE HIM SOME CON-FIDENCE.
THEY'RE MAKING FOOLS OF US. . .
GNASH GNASH GNASH
KAIDA

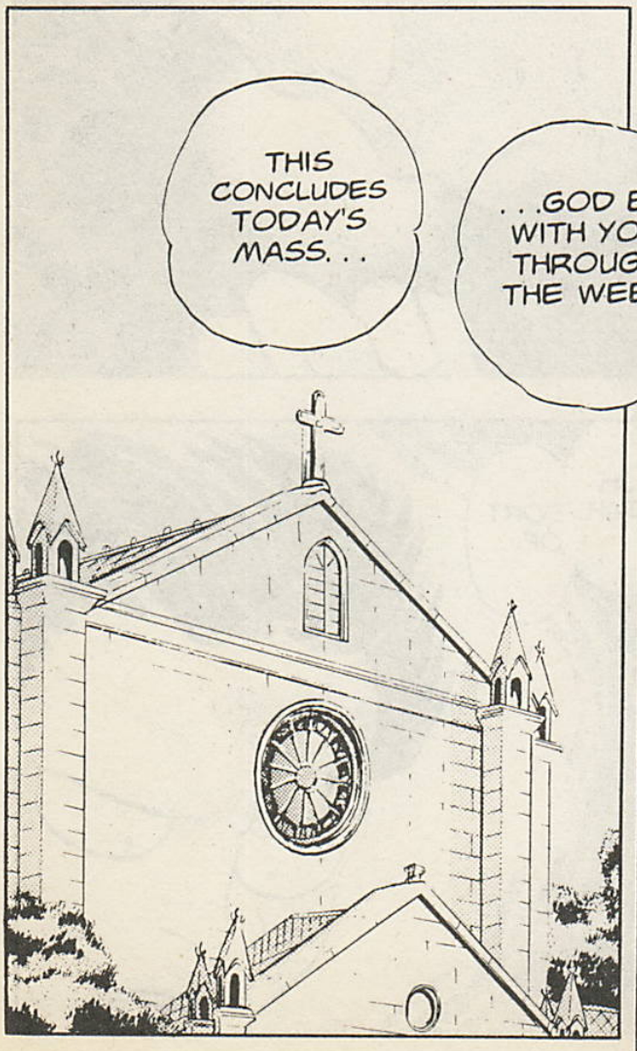

SHUT UP AND RUN!!
IF YOU LOSE, I'M GONNA KILL YOU!!
SKWEEK
WA-HA-HA.
I'LL WIN, I'LL WIN!
IF I WIN. . .
. . .WILL YOU BE MY GIRL-FRIEND?

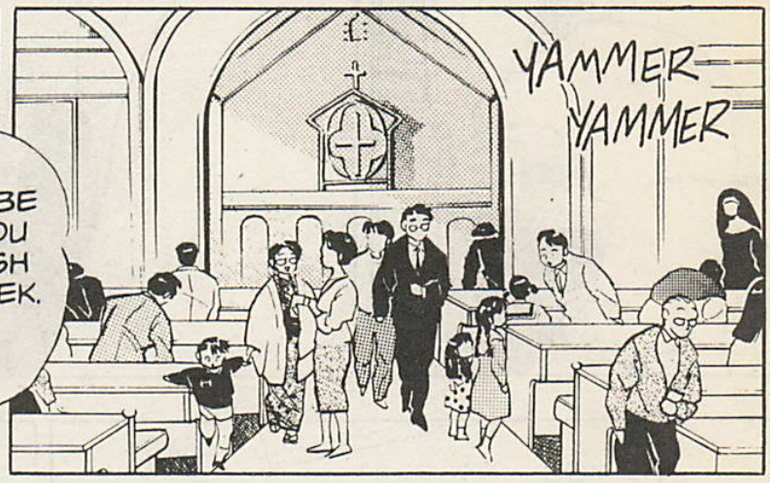

THE SISTER'S AT STAKE HERE. . .
. . .SO I'VE GOT TO WIN.
HUH?

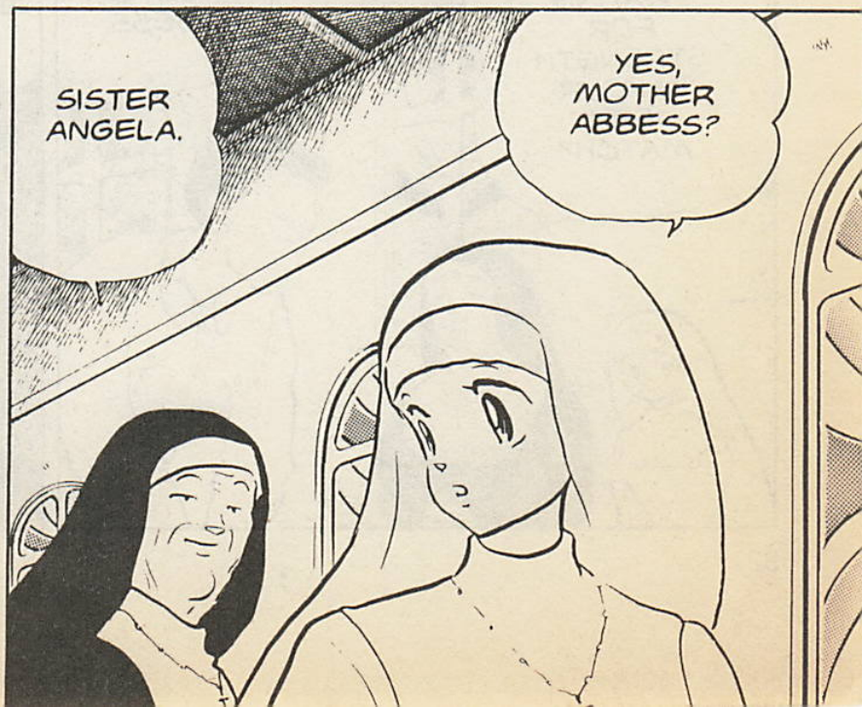
COME TO THINK OF IT...
I NEVER GOT...


...THE SISTER'S ANSWER!
HEY!
ZZOOM

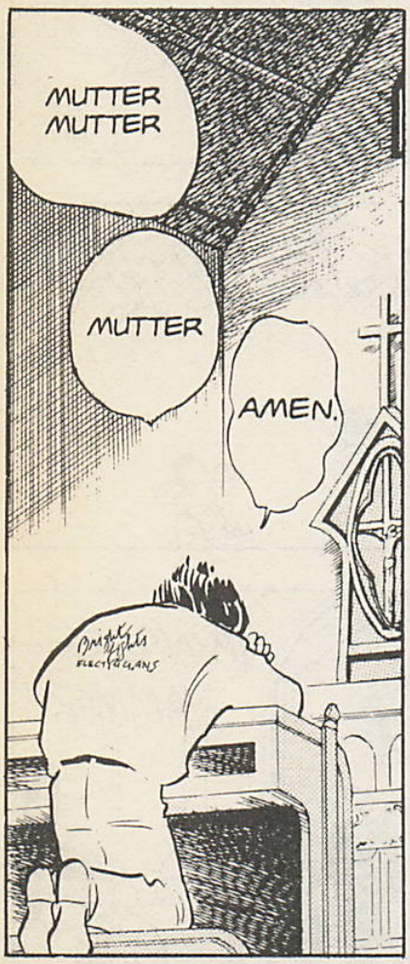

KOSAKU!
VRRRR


THIS CONCLUDES TODAY'S MASS...
...GOD BE WITH YOU THROUGH THE WEEK.


YAMMER YAMMER

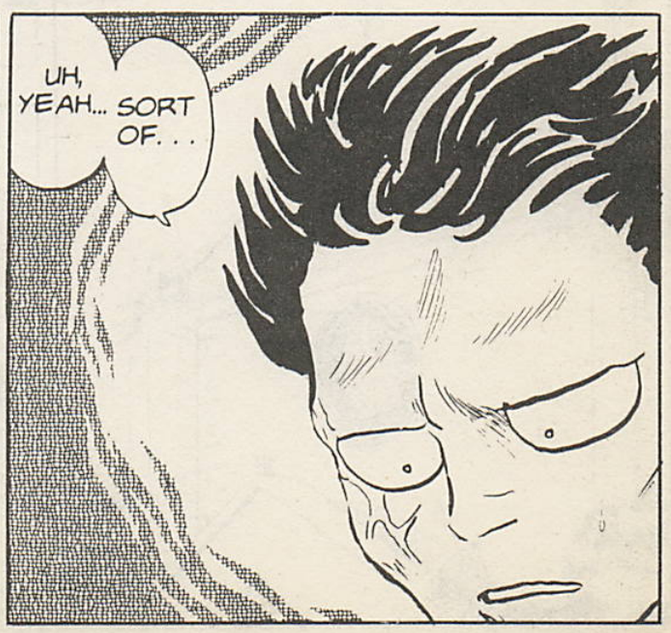

SISTER ANGELA.
YES, MOTHER ABBESS?

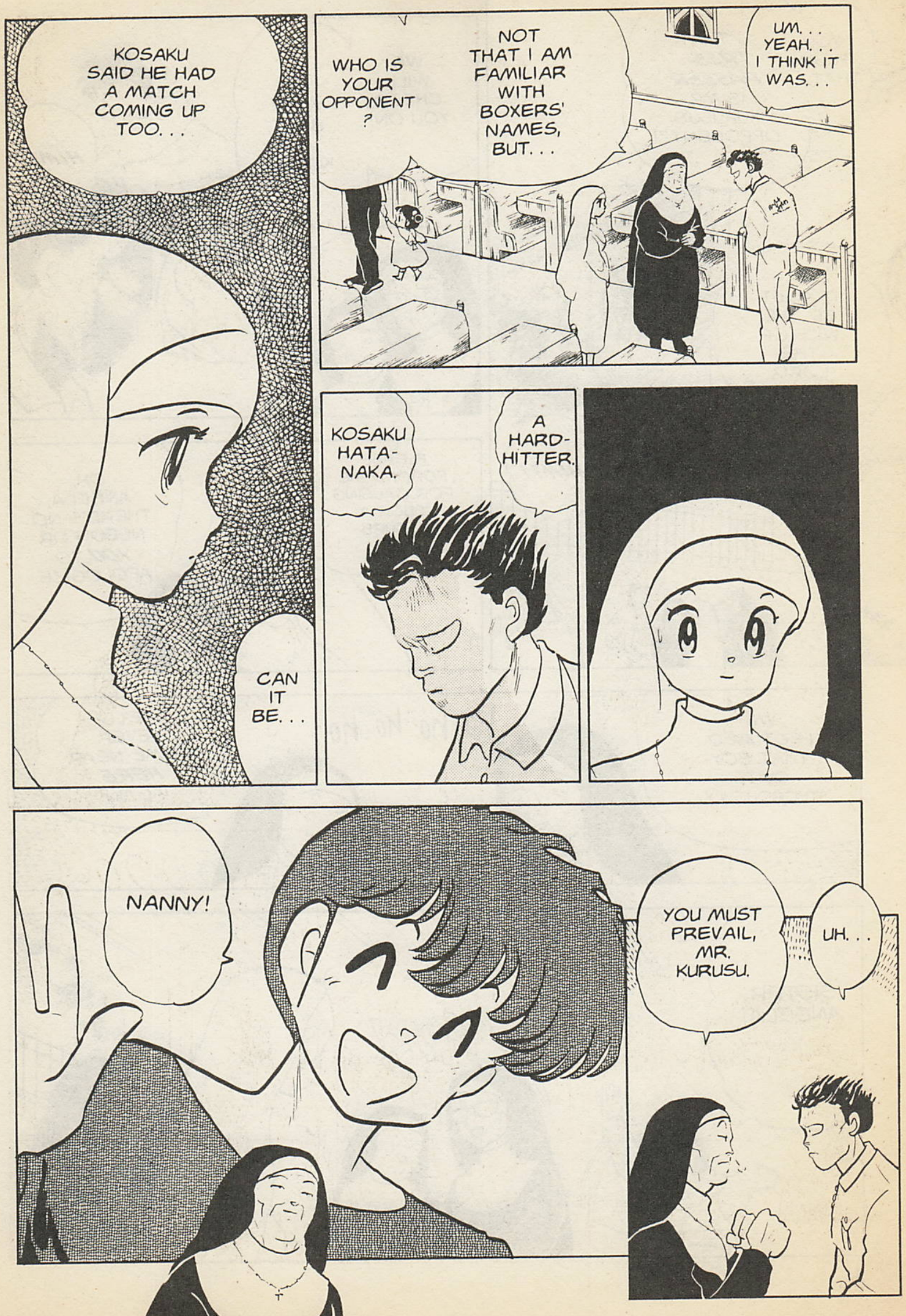
MR. KURUSU ATTENDED MASS THIS MORNING.
WHY DON'T YOU GO AND PAY HIM YOUR RESPECTS?
YES... OF COURSE.

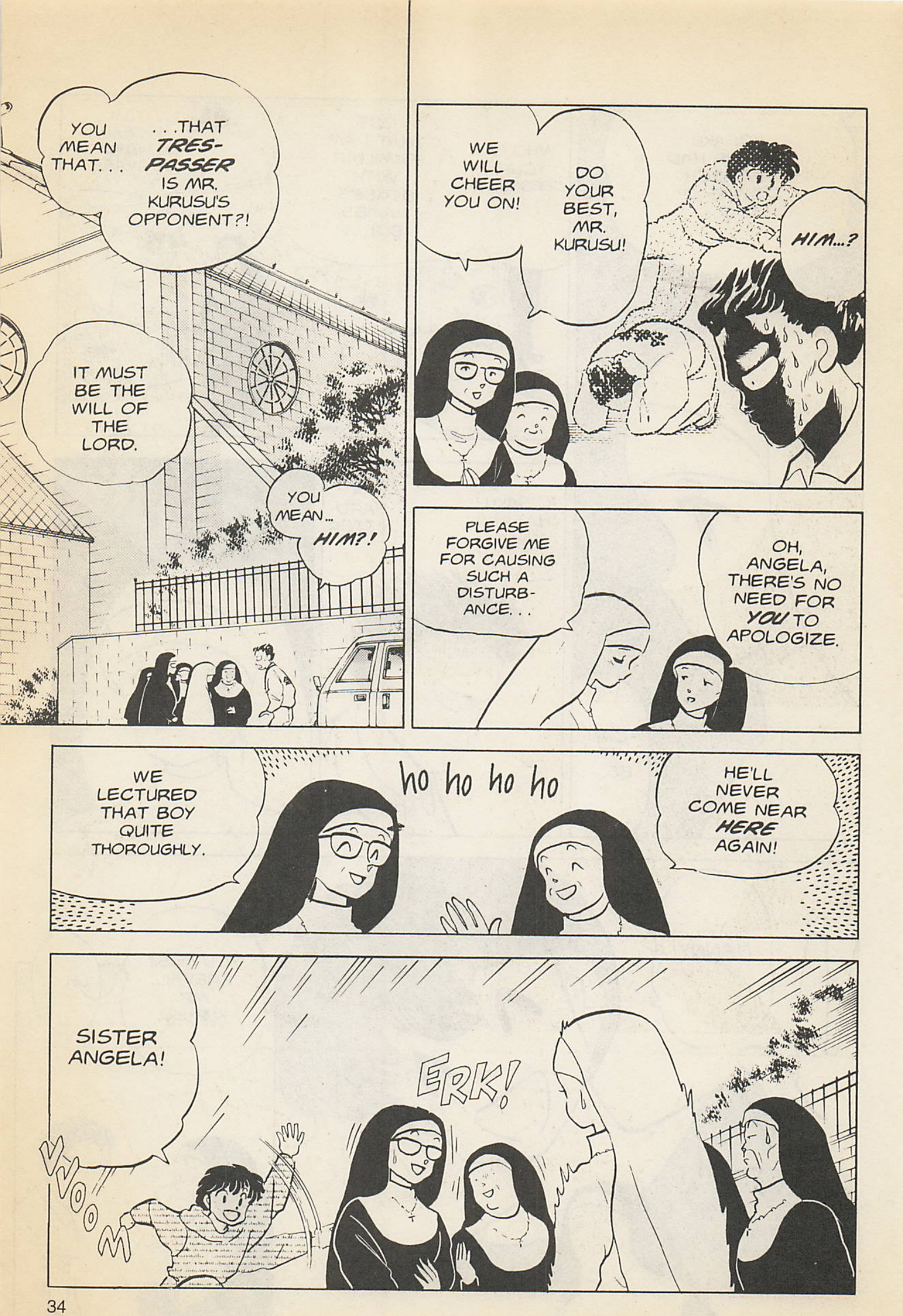

MUTTER MUTTER
MUTTER
AMEN.

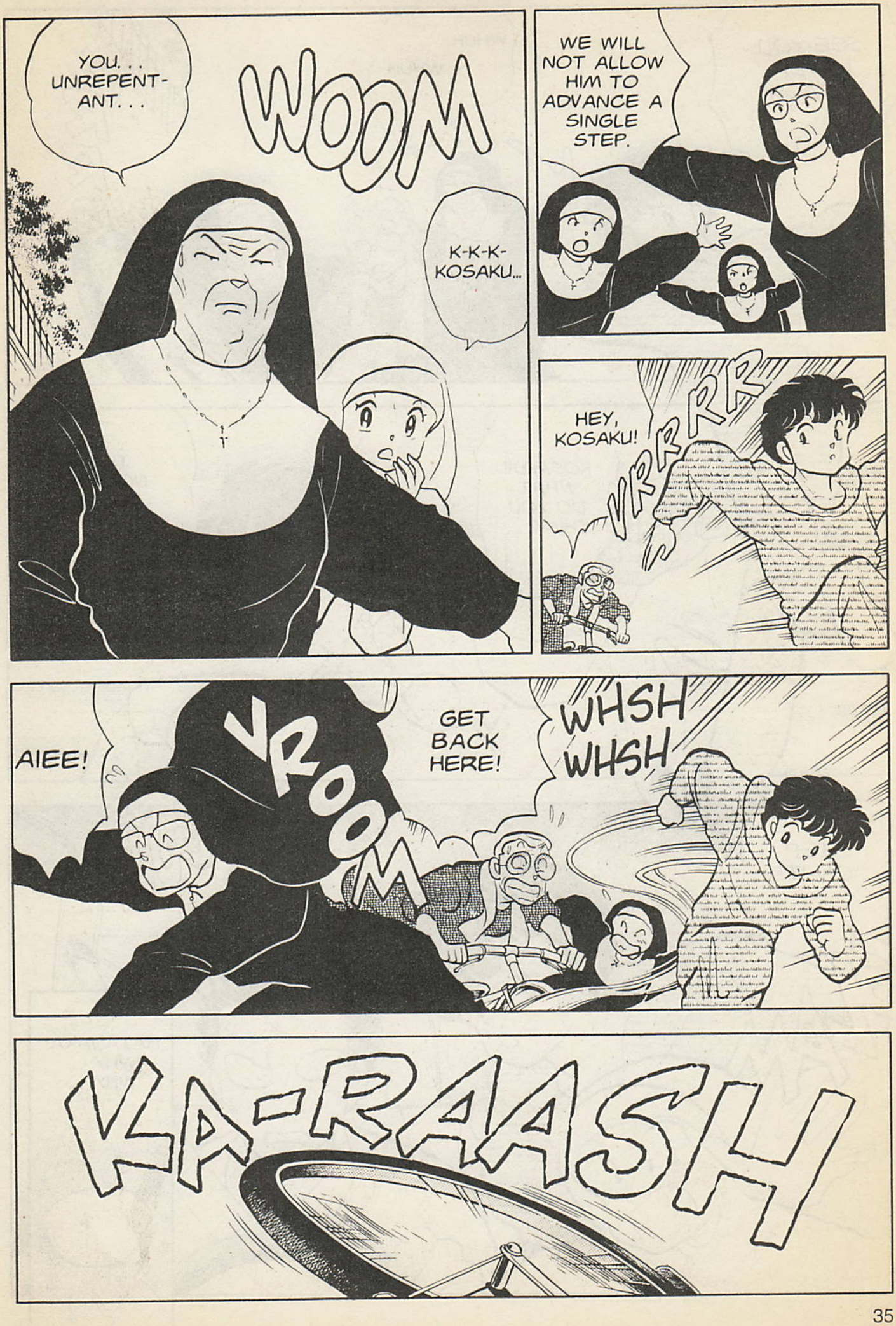
YOU PRAY WITH PARTICULAR INTENSITY, MR. KURUSU.

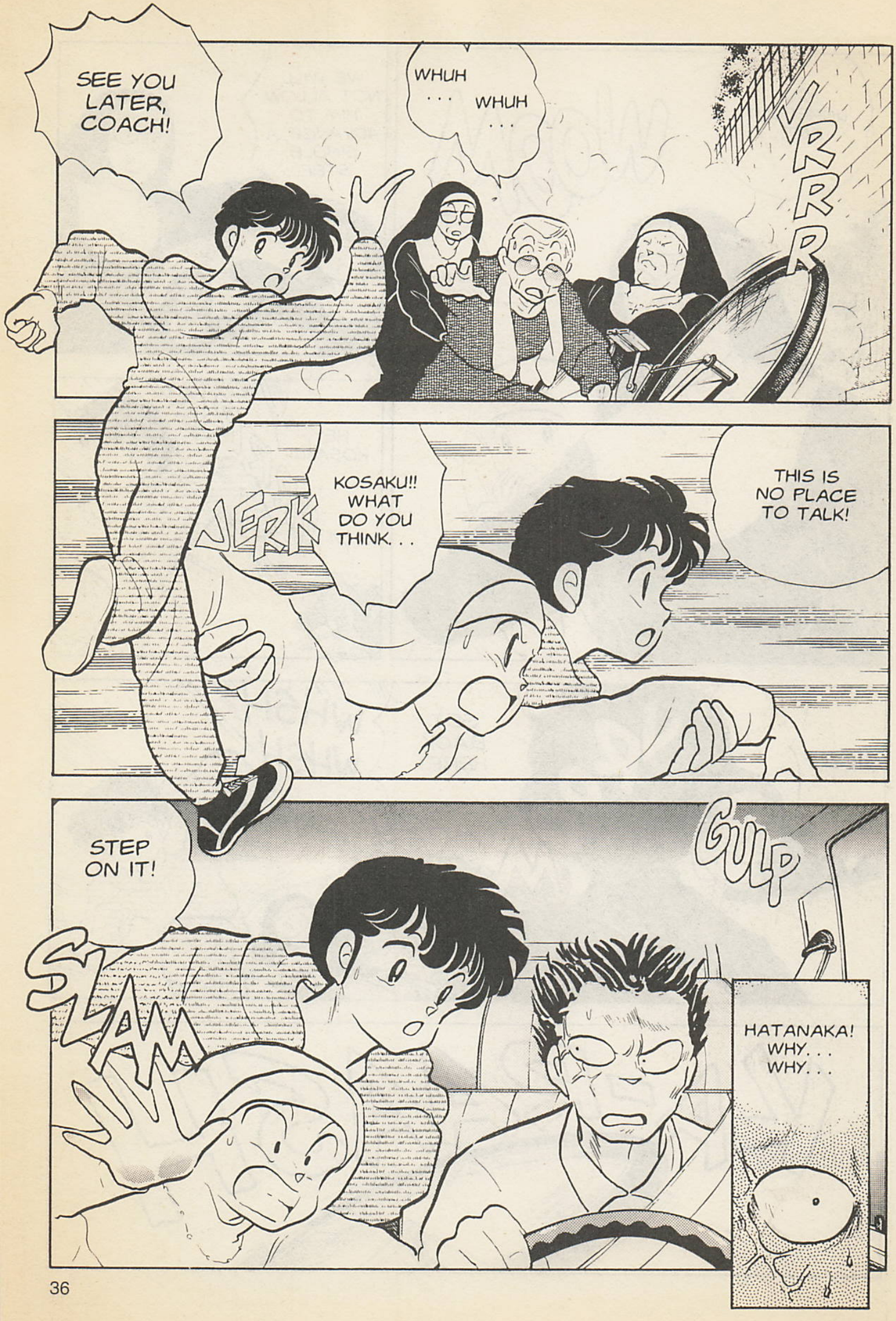
ARE YOU PRAYING FOR STRENGTH IN YOUR DEBUT MATCH?
OH... MOTHER ABBESS...


UH, YEAH... SORT OF...

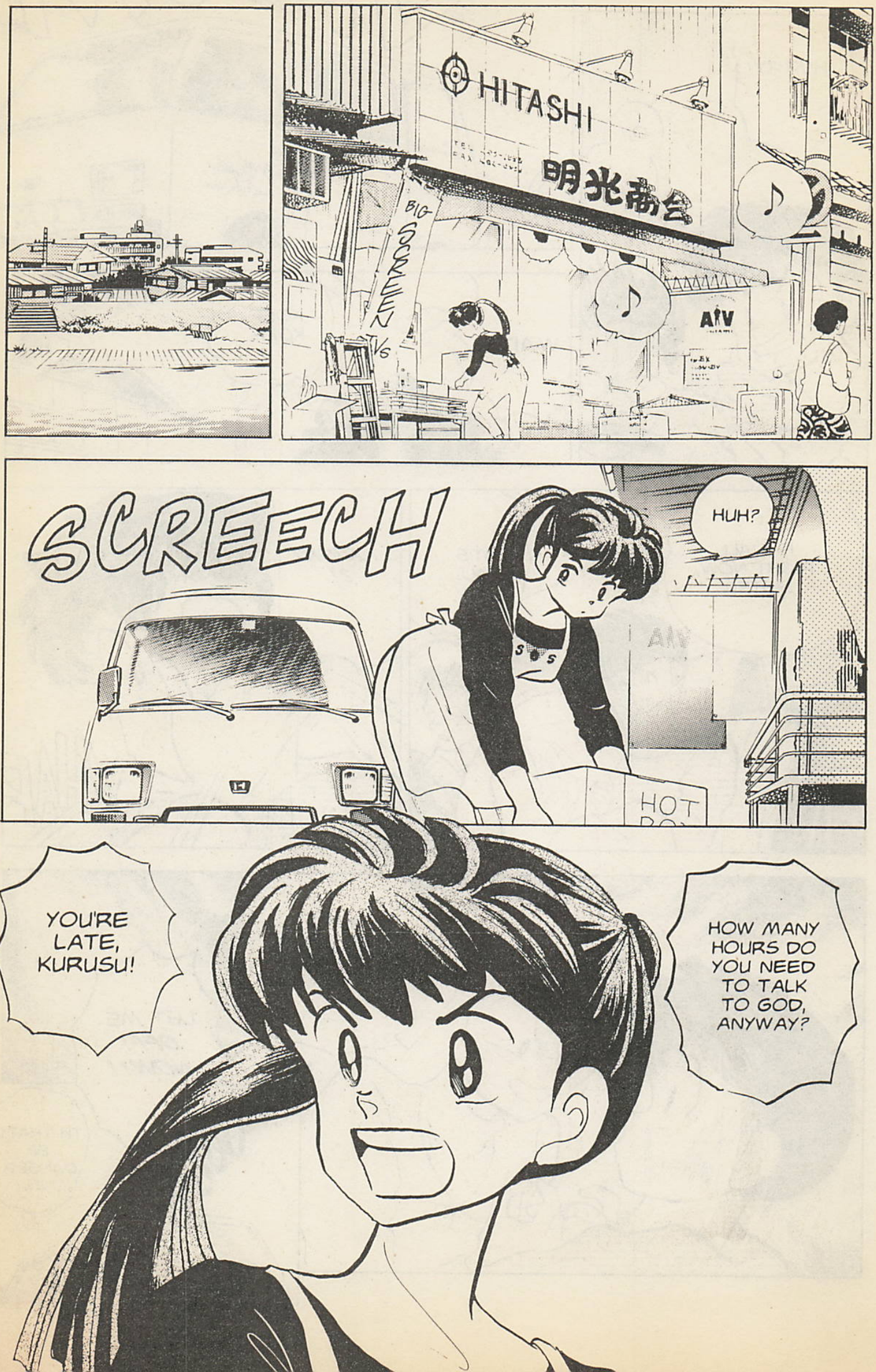

KOSAKU SAID HE HAD A MATCH COMING UP TOO...
CAN IT BE...
WHO IS YOUR OPPONENT?
NOT THAT I AM FAMILIAR WITH BOXERS' NAMES, BUT...
UM... YEAH... I THINK IT WAS...
KOSAKU HATA-NAKA.
A HARD-HITTER.
NANNY!
YOU MUST PREVAIL, MR. KURUSU.
UH...

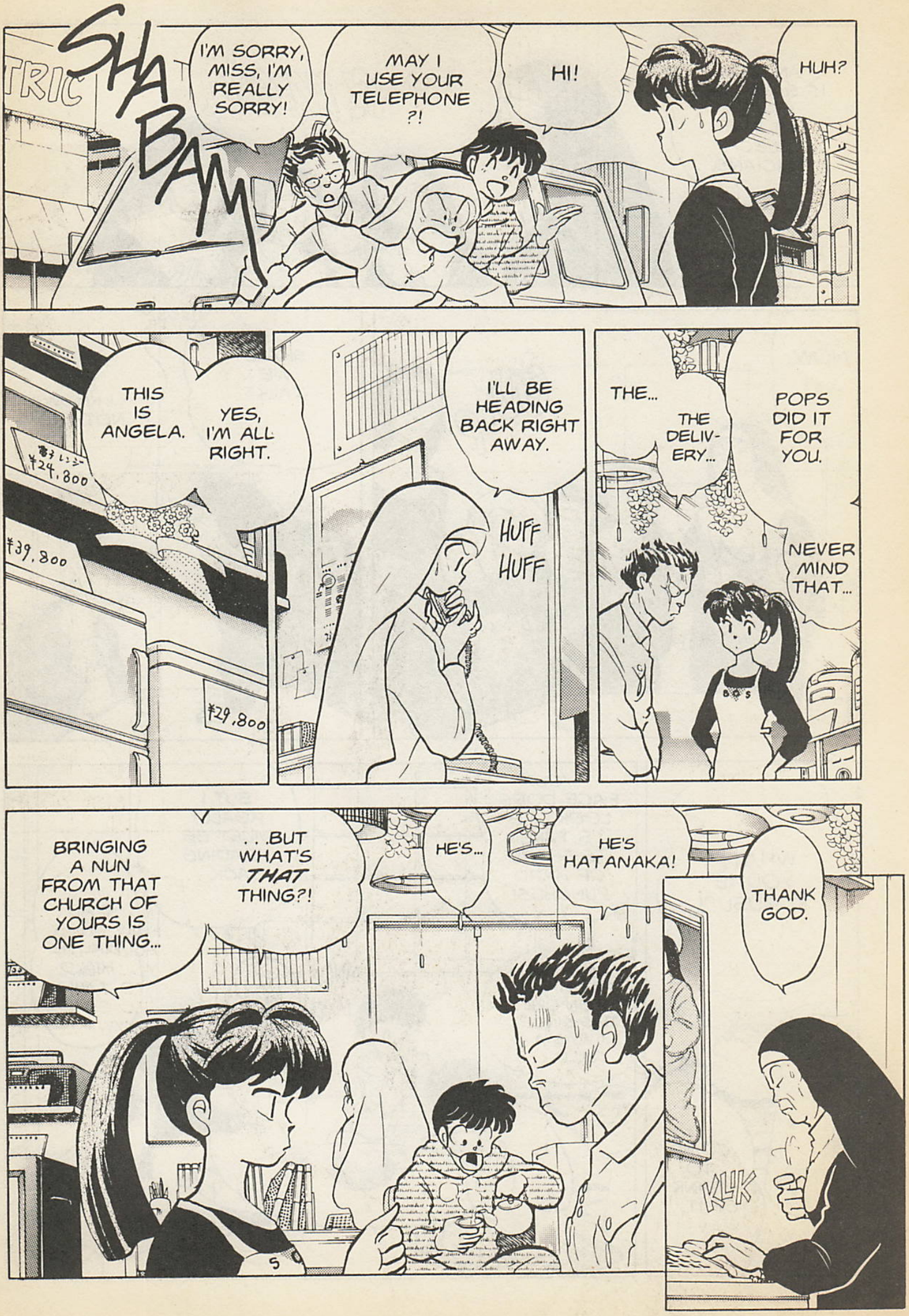

YOU MEAN THAT...
...THAT TRES-PASSER IS MR. KURUSU'S OPPONENT?!
IT MUST BE THE WILL OF THE LORD.
YOU MEAN... HIM?!
WE WILL CHEER YOU ON!
DO YOUR BEST, MR. KURUSU!
HIM...?
PLEASE FORGIVE ME FOR CAUSING SUCH A DISTURB-ANCE...
OH, ANGELA, THERE'S NO NEED FOR YOU TO APOLOGIZE.
WE LECTURED THAT BOY QUITE THOROUGHLY.
ho ho ho ho
HE'LL NEVER COME NEAR HERE AGAIN!
SISTER ANGELA!
VVOOM
ERK!

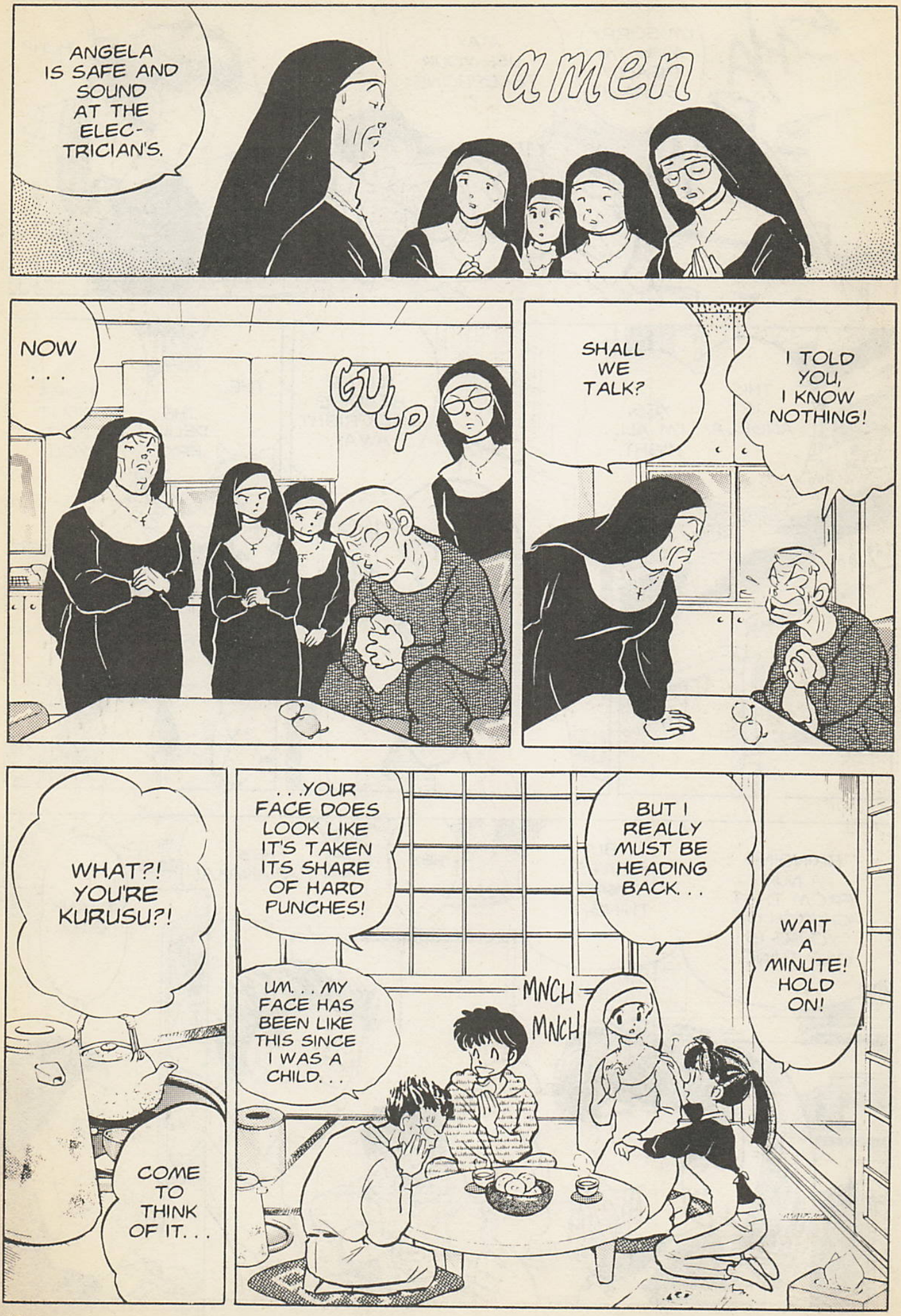

YOU... UNREPENT-ANT...
WOOM
K-K-K-KOSAKU...
WE WILL NOT ALLOW HIM TO ADVANCE A SINGLE STEP.
HEY, KOSAKU!
VRRRR
AIEE!
VROOM
GET BACK HERE!
WHSH WHSH
KA-RAASH

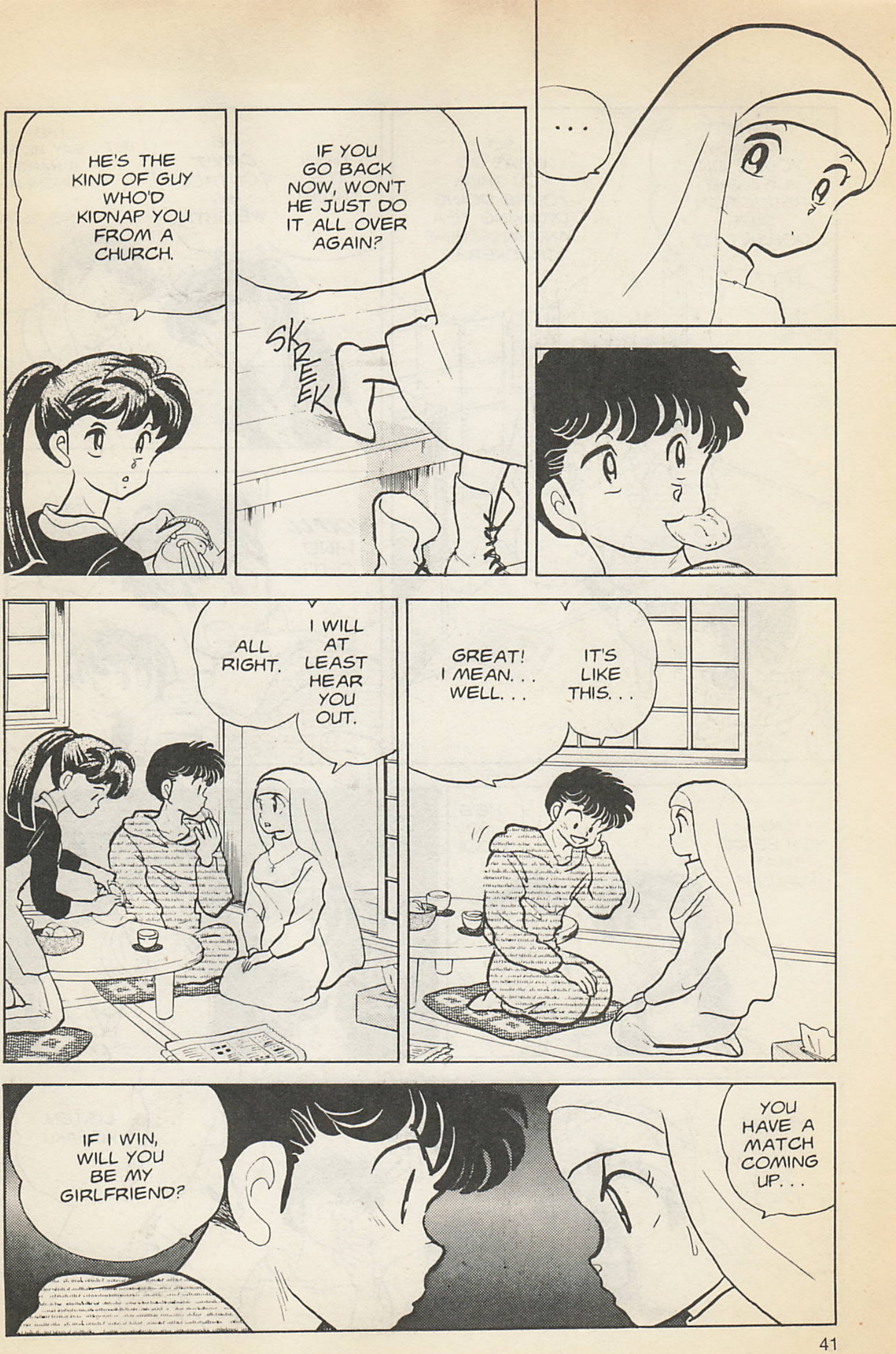

SEE YOU LATER, COACH!
WHUH . . . WHUH . . .
VRRR
JERK
KOSAKU!! WHAT DO YOU THINK. . .
THIS IS NO PLACE TO TALK!
STEP ON IT!
SLAM
GULP
HATANAKA! WHY. . . WHY. . .

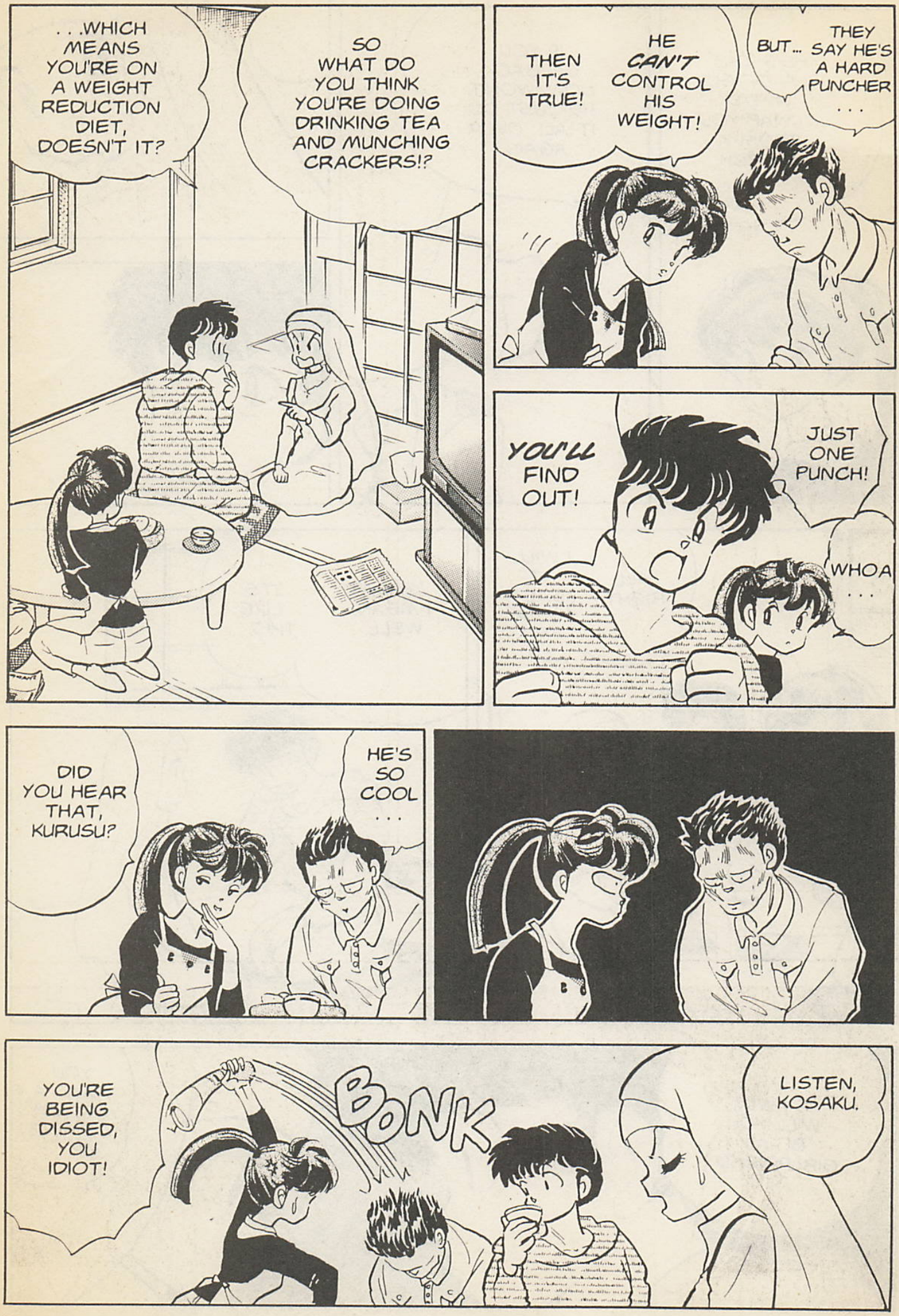
VROOM
Bright Lights
ELECTRICIANS
HURRY!
O-
OKAY . . .
ULP
WAIT!
KOFF KOFF.
IT'S ALL RIGHT NOW, SISTER.
IT'S. . . ALL. . .
. . RIGHT ?!
WHAP
WHO DO YOU THINK YOU ARE?!
LET ME OFF! NOW!!
WHOOSH
TH-THAT'D BE DANGER-OUS. . .

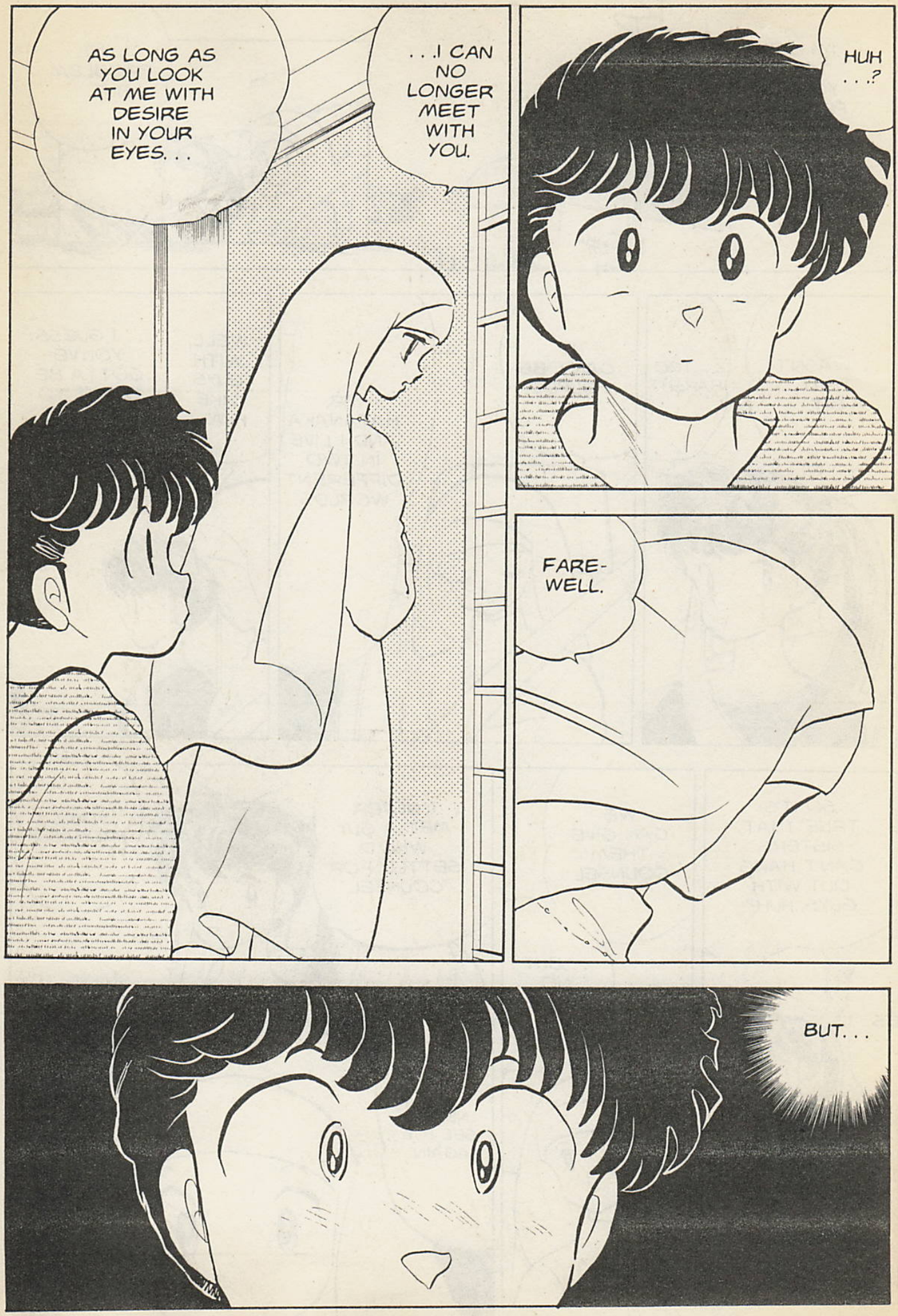

HITASHI
明光商会
BIG SCREEN TV
AIV
SCREECH
HUH?
HOT
YOU'RE LATE, KURUSU!
HOW MANY HOURS DO YOU NEED TO TALK TO GOD, ANYWAY?

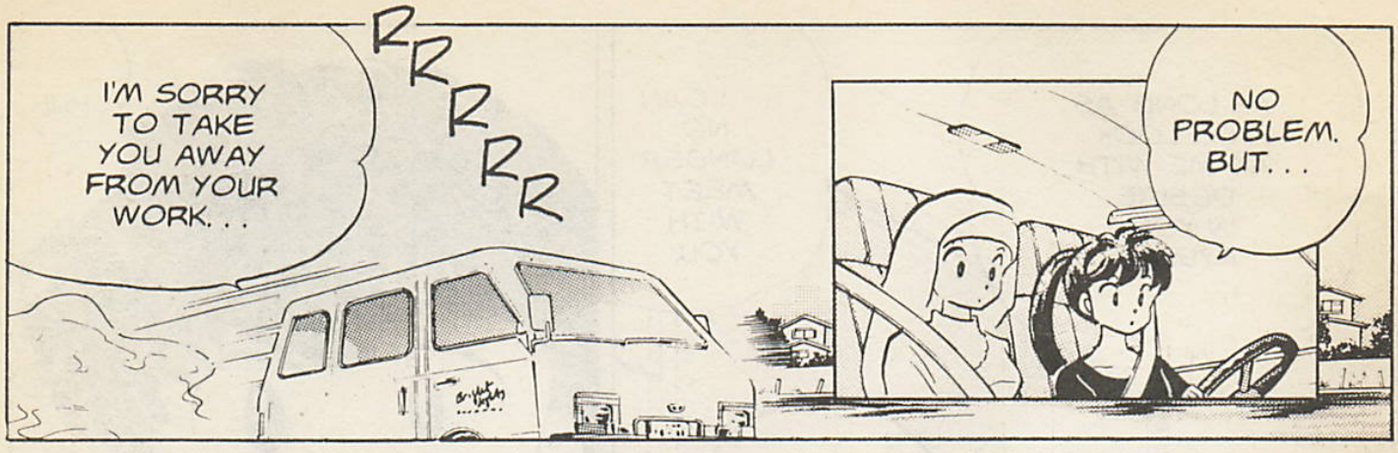

SHA BAM
I'M SORRY, MISS, I'M REALLY SORRY!
MAY I USE YOUR TELEPHONE ?!
HI!
HUH?
THIS IS ANGELA.
YES, I'M ALL RIGHT.
¥39,800
¥24,800
¥29,800
I'LL BE HEADING BACK RIGHT AWAY.
HUFF HUFF
THE...
THE DELIV-ERY...
POPS DID IT FOR YOU.
NEVER MIND THAT...
BRINGING A NUN FROM THAT CHURCH OF YOURS IS ONE THING...
. . .BUT WHAT'S THAT THING?!
HE'S...
HE'S HATANAKA!
THANK GOD.
KUK


ANGELA IS SAFE AND SOUND AT THE ELEC-TRICIAN'S.
amen
NOW . . .
GULP
SHALL WE TALK?
I TOLD YOU, I KNOW NOTHING!
WHAT?! YOU'RE KURUSU?!
COME TO THINK OF IT. . .
. . .YOUR FACE DOES LOOK LIKE IT'S TAKEN ITS SHARE OF HARD PUNCHES!
UM. . . MY FACE HAS BEEN LIKE THIS SINCE I WAS A CHILD. . .
MNCH MNCH
BUT I REALLY MUST BE HEADING BACK. . .
WAIT A MINUTE! HOLD ON!


HE'S THE KIND OF GUY WHO'D KIDNAP YOU FROM A CHURCH.
IF YOU GO BACK NOW, WON'T HE JUST DO IT ALL OVER AGAIN?
SKREEK
...
ALL RIGHT.
I WILL AT LEAST HEAR YOU OUT.
GREAT! I MEAN... WELL...
IT'S LIKE THIS...
IF I WIN, WILL YOU BE MY GIRLFRIEND?
YOU HAVE A MATCH COMING UP...


. . .WHICH MEANS YOU'RE ON A WEIGHT REDUCTION DIET, DOESN'T IT?
SO WHAT DO YOU THINK YOU'RE DOING DRINKING TEA AND MUNCHING CRACKERS!?
THEN IT'S TRUE!
HE CAN'T CONTROL HIS WEIGHT!
BUT... THEY SAY HE'S A HARD PUNCHER . . .
YOU'LL FIND OUT!
JUST ONE PUNCH!
WHOA . . .
DID YOU HEAR THAT, KURUSU?
HE'S SO COOL . . .
YOU'RE BEING DISSED, YOU IDIOT!
BONK
LISTEN, KOSAKU.


AS LONG AS YOU LOOK AT ME WITH DESIRE IN YOUR EYES. . .
. . .I CAN NO LONGER MEET WITH YOU.
HUH . . .?
FARE-WELL.
BUT. . .


I'M SORRY TO TAKE YOU AWAY FROM YOUR WORK. . .
RRRRR
NO PROBLEM. BUT. . .

. . .WASN'T THAT A BIT. . .
. . .TOO HARSH?

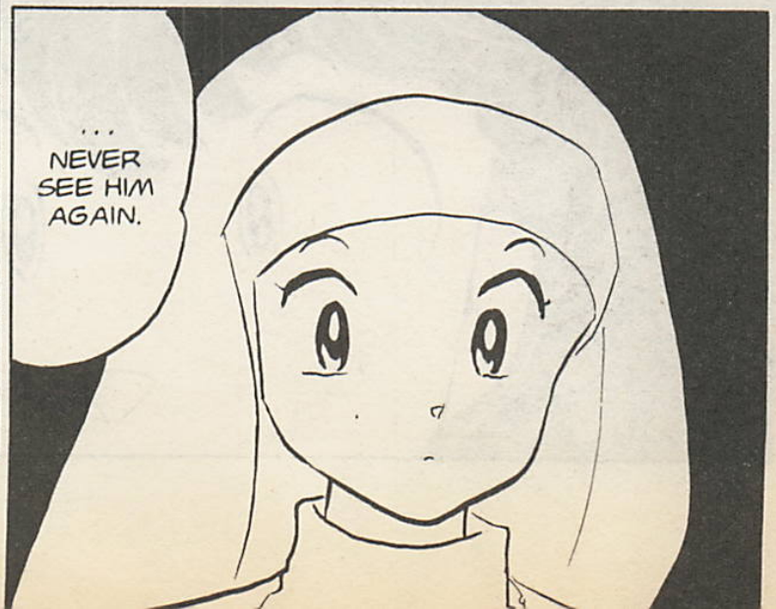
IT CAN'T BE HELPED.
MR. HATANAKA AND I LIVE IN TWO DIFFERENT WORLDS.

WELL, WITH GUYS LIKE HIM. . .
. . .I GUESS YOU'VE GOTTA BE BLUNT TO GET THE MESSAGE ACROSS.

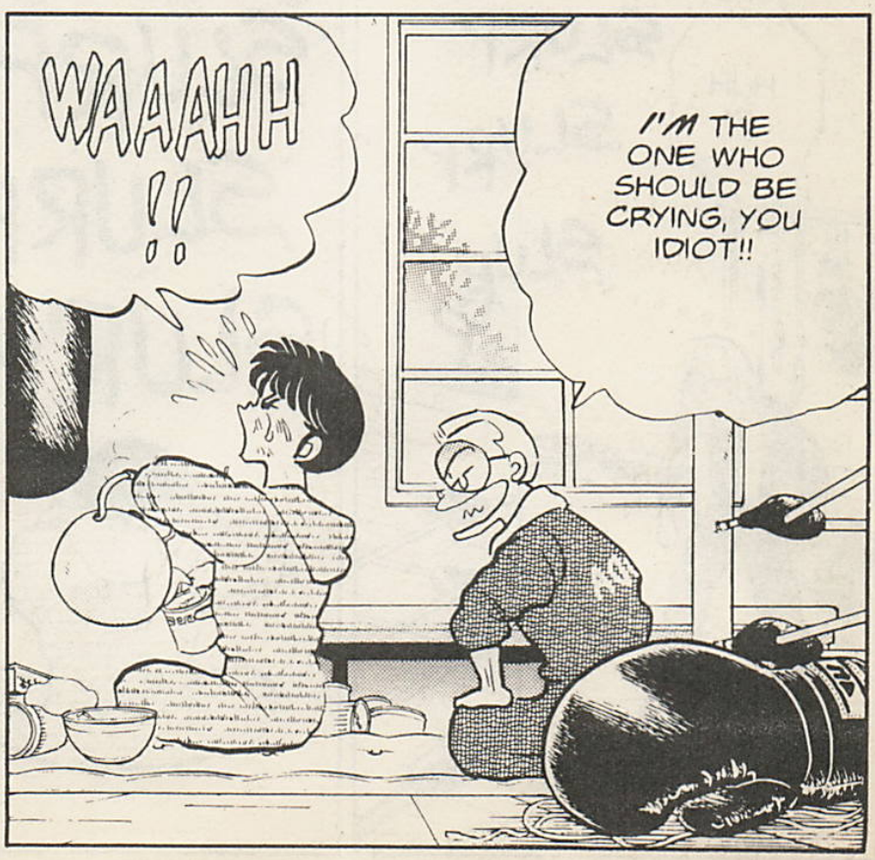
SO IT'S TRUE THAT SISTERS CAN'T HANG OUT WITH GUYS, HUH?
YES . . .

WE CAN GIVE THEM COUNSEL . . .
. . .BUT NO MORE.

I NEVER MET A GUY WHO'D SETTLE FOR "COUNSEL."
YOU'LL PROBABLY . . .


. . . NEVER SEE HIM AGAIN.

DO YOU REALLY THINK SO?
COUNT ON IT!
RRR
AARGH . . .
KOSAKU, YOU MORON . . .
KREEK KREEK
BOXERS WANTED
GYM
WHEN HE GETS BACK. . .
I'M GONNA SKIN HIM ALIVE!
HUH ?!
SLURP SLURP SLURP
SLURP SLURP SLURP
NO!!
Cup-O-Noodles
KOSAKU !!
STOMP STOMP
YOU... LITTLE...



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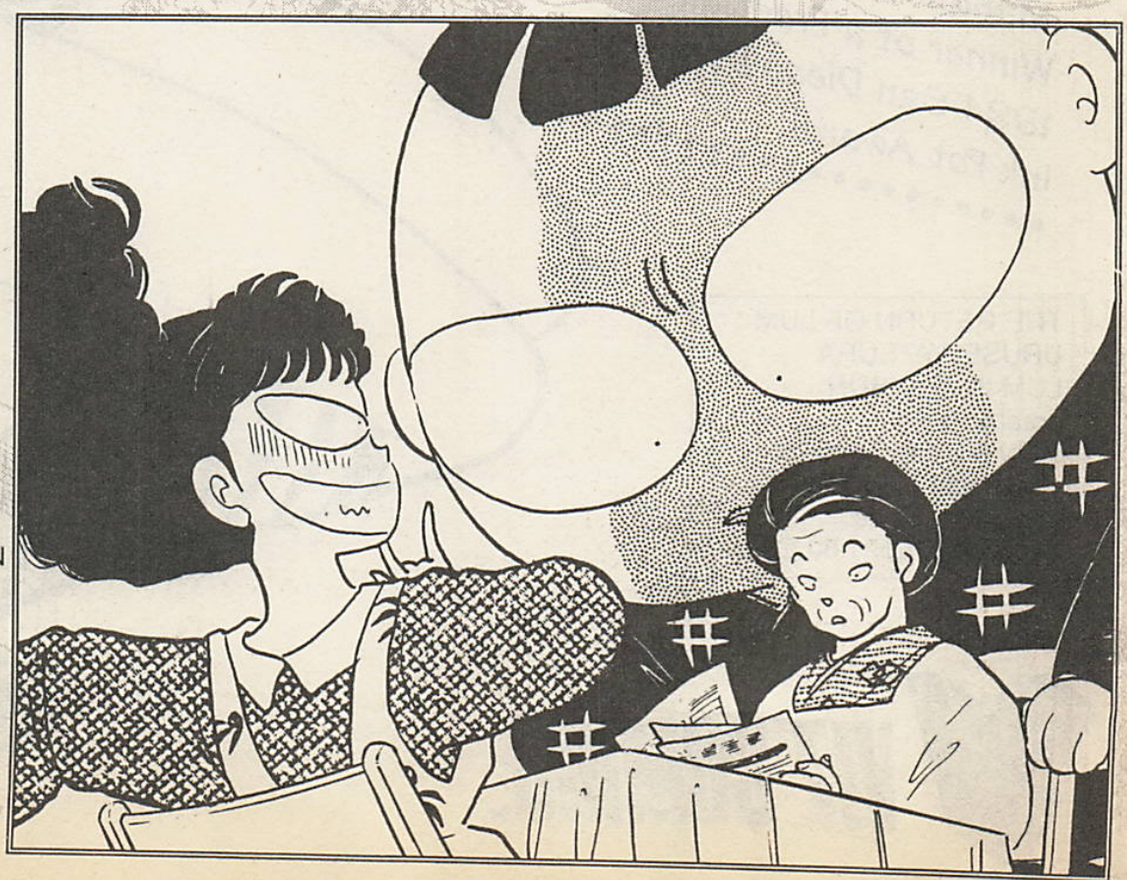

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